

QMC 'would prefer a total merger'

by Ngao Crequer

Sir James Menter, principal of Queen Mary College, has told London University that total merger with Westfield College would be more beneficial than a mere "association".

In a note to the university joint planning committee and senate he said that it had become increasingly clear to the QMC as the discussions with Westfield progressed that the full academic and financial benefits to the two colleges and the university were most likely to be realized only by a merger.

"We cannot fail to record that five of the multi-faculty schools of the university have already recognized the inevitability of this conclusion for themselves, with its concomitant site concentration," he said, although the QMC had not sought to impose that view on Westfield.

"The college would welcome a comparable initiative by Westfield College which would open up the prospect of discussing together how best to utilize the physical resources of the Mile End and Hampstead sites to our mutual advantage and to the advantage of the university," he added.

The QMC and Westfield are currently only talking about an "association" but Sir James said in the note that merger might be "inexpedient and is indeed desirable on both academic and financial grounds". He would expect Westfield's residential aspects to be maintained for the benefit of the students of the merged colleges.

Westfield has not gone so far and at the same meeting, in June this year, a clear difference of view emerged as to where the humanities or arts faculty of the two colleges should be sited.

Baccalaureate gains favour in British universities

Nearly twice as many International Baccalaureate candidates were offered places at UK universities and colleges this year as in 1980, with a major increase having been achieved on 1982 figures.

This is revealed by a survey on the entry of IB students to universities and colleges which was being discussed this week at an IB seminar on admissions held at London University's Institute of Education. IB is a two-year, pre-university course now offered in some 200 affiliated schools and accepted in some 600 universities in 45 countries.

The survey conducted by the London IB Office's regional officer shows that 340 students were offered places in 1983 compared to 196 in 1980 and 269 in 1982. This number of offers made a leap from 390 in 1980 to 613 in 1983.

Most places were offered by the London School of Economics (57), followed by Sussex, University College, London, Kent, Edinburgh, Warwick, Imperial College London, and Southampton universities.

The highest number of applications were for courses in economics (72) followed by science courses for which numbers have risen substantially over last year, particularly for engineering and medicine. There has however been a drop in applications for languages.

Polytechnics 'nobody's child'

The affairs of the polytechnics are a "black box" about which the public and councillors nominally in charge of the system know next to nothing, David Walker, local government correspondent of The Times and a former THES reporter, claims in a book published yesterday.

In the book, *Municipal Empire*, Mr Walker questions whether, for example, Lancashire county councillors could think of a measure of the effectiveness of Preston Polytechnic or justify its growth and diversification. And he doubts that "the man in the Barking street" would know that NILE stood for the North East London Polytechnic.

A volume can - and ought to be - written about the financial corner that was cut by polytechnics: their courts of governors, their boards of directors, their staffs, their students, their growth," he writes. "No district au-

Dr Bryan Thwaites, outgoing principal of Westfield, argued that the humanities should be concentrated there because there was more space, their excellence had been recognized and there was a need for effective deployment of teaching resources.

But Sir James said there was neither academic nor financial logic in this. It would hit teaching and research in other QMC faculties, arts staff and students would lose the benefit of working in a multi-faculty environment and it would be uneconomic.

Meanwhile the QMC is continuing to talk to Goldsmiths' College. A collaborative planning committee is reviewing the present physical, financial and administrative arrangements of the two colleges to determine which form of association would be best. By November this year it must propose a strategy for the next five years and bear in mind the Westfield talks.

An earlier joint working party ruled that both colleges were committed to continue on their present sites and neither could house the other. But this would not be a bar to working on two sites.

The Goldsmiths' committee on the future status of the college has recommended to the college delegacy that it should retain direct Department of Education and Science funding for as long as possible to keep future options open. But in aspiring towards university status it should not object to being funded by the University Grants Committee.

It has also recommended that negotiations with the QMC should be pursued with vigour, other alternative solutions should still be kept under review.

compared with last year, but the arts/social sciences have remained about the same.

Another survey conducted by Mr Roger Moran of St John's International School, Belgium into the IB's acceptability in universities shows that the majority have a positive attitude.

Only eight university colleges and medical schools proved to have a negative or ambiguous attitude towards the IB. The most reactionary were four Oxford Colleges - Christ Church described as negative, Balliol as elitist, St Edmund's Hall as condescending and St John's as ambiguous.

Others who gave similar responses were Cambridge University's Clifton and Jesus colleges and two London medical schools - the Royal Free and St Mary's.

On the whole the majority of universities said that the IB compared well with A levels, but a number said definitely that they preferred the latter, particularly for science subjects.

Among these were the Cambridge University colleges of Gonville and Caius, Jesus, King's and St Catherine's and Magdalene, London's Royal Free and St Bart's hospital medical school, Oxford University where the majority prefers A levels and Newcastle, Sheffield and Southampton universities.

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Poly staff hostile to report

by David Jobbins

General hostility towards two-year degree courses as proposed in this year's Leverhulme study report surfaced this week among polytechnic lecturers.

A consensus among lecturers taking part in a London seminar organized by the Association of Polytechnic Teachers, was that, far from widening opportunities, two-year degrees could be a vehicle for creating a two-tier system with universities retaining three-year courses, while the public sector was coerced into two-year degrees.

They remained unconvinced by the argument that two-year degrees would liberate resources which could be used to widen opportunities. And they predicted that the proposals would be unacceptable to professional bodies and confusing for prospective employers.

Equally, there was scepticism over Leverhulme's suggestion that loans could be used to finance students undertaking further years of study to obtain specialist degrees, although no one was prepared to argue that the present means-tested grant was perfect.

Despite the critical tone from APT leaders, the views expressed are likely to prove valuable to the Society for Research into Higher Education as part of the discussions it hopes Leverhulme would trigger.

Many speakers voiced practical objections to two-year degrees. Mr Joe Powell, from Wolverhampton Polytechnic, said that without external assessment by the Department of Education and Science, students might be encouraged to stay on for the additional honours part of the course by staff.

He added that two-year degrees would prove unacceptable to Britain's European partners and hinder mobility of students.

And Mr Alan Gudgeon, from Coventry Polytechnic, warned of the effects on staff morale if they were deprived of the stimulus of teaching third-year honours classes.

On loans, Mr Powell predicted an increased drop-out rate in the third and fourth years, while Dr Andrew Hawkins, assistant education officer for Devon, expressed the view that loans were bound to discriminate in favour of universities who maintained three-year degrees and selected students on social, rather than academic, grounds.

Dr Tony Polington, APT's national secretary, commented: "To increase access to higher education without maintaining quality or indeed standards, is dishonest and in the long term will undermine the whole basis of this country's competitive position in the world."

The seminar proceedings are to be published by APT later in the autumn.

Oxford reluctant to raise funds

Oxford University has shown little enthusiasm for the views of Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, on how future university funding might be increasingly "privatized".

Dr John Smeaton, vice-chancellor, on funding controls and his letter on planning sent to the University Grants Committee are to be studied by a new committee on appeals and income generation.

But a sheaf of cuttings on the subject sent around to members of Oxford University's general body have been greeted with scepticism. There are doubts about the practice of undermining state support of universities.

The appeals and income generation committee, headed by Mr Christopher Ball, warden of Keble College, aims to fund-raising for outside sources, which it believes is a very high priority.

Mr Ball said the committee aimed to draw on the experience of the Playhouse appeal for example to raising current fundraising for the Ashmolean Museum, the Pitt Rivers Museum, and the department of anatomy.



This Victorian photograph of Glasgow's Sauchiehall Street is on display in Strathclyde University's Collins Gallery in an exhibition of work by Scottish photographer, George Washington Wilson.

The exhibition, with photographs selected from the Washington Wilson archive housed in Aberdeen University, runs from October 5 to 28, and is organized by John Hume and Tessa Jackson, who have also compiled a booklet of the photographs.

Parkes criticized for narrow view and hurried decisions

by John O'Leary

In the week of his retirement as chairman of the University Grants Committee, Sir Edward Parkes has been singled out for severe criticism in a new book on the cuts in higher education imposed by the last Conservative government.

Professor Maurice Kogan, head of the department of government at Brunel University, and journalist Mr David Kogan accuse the Government of adopting a policy "that was carelessly created and is being carelessly administered." But the UGC and Sir Edward in particular, are criticised both for their compliance and for the way in which the university cuts were implemented.

The book, *The Attack on Higher Education*, is critical, too, of the resistance offered by academics in other positions of responsibility. "The strongest academics did not care enough for the fate of the weaker ones, even though they must have known that those who teach in the more privileged institutions are often very similar in terms of ability to those who work in a polytechnic or in one of the less prestigious universities," the authors maintain.

Government policy, both over the university cuts and their consequences for the public sector, is described as "uninspired and muddled, failing to encourage rational new planning. In his latest proposal for university funding Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is said to be compelling the universities to join him in a kind of monetarist's playground in which he can indulge his ideological fantasies."

The seminar proceedings are to be published by APT later in the autumn.

Willows saved by grant

Bristol University's unique collection of willow trees has been saved from axe following an EEC grant to preserve them.

But the 450 species of willow now being moved from the Long Ashton research station to new sites at Bangor faculty of Agriculture in Wales and Liverpool Botanic Garden.

The £10,000 grant from the Common Market is part of a programme of support to timber production and landscaping worth £72,000.

Long Ashton's share of the grant after Mr Ken Scott, who has been enlarged the collection of willow went to Brussels to plead for its preservation.

It had been feared that the collection of trees would fall victim to the cutbacks in Agricultural Research Council support to the department last year.

Mr Scott asked for grants to maintain the collection at Long Ashton and agreed to the lower figure when the grant and Liverpool offered to spread the trees. The transfers will be spread over two and a half years.

Computer institute seeks kindly host

by Jon Turney

Science Correspondent
Professor Donald Michie, Britain's best-known pioneer in artificial intelligence, is looking for a new home for himself and an ambitious research institute.

Professor Michie holds the chair in machine intelligence at Edinburgh University. He said in London this week that he would retire from his professorship next year to devote himself full-time to the new centre. Speaking at an international computer conference he said the next step was to find a university to play host to the new laboratory, which would be funded by industry.

The centre will be known as the Turing Institute, after the British computer theorist Alan Turing, who Michie worked alongside at Bletchley during the war.

Professor Michie clearly hopes plans for the Turing Institute will be helped by the new climate of enthusiasm for artificial intelligence research prompted by the Japanese fifth generation computer programme and Britain's own Alvey programme. For advanced information technology. But his outline to the new institute is also critical of the way Alvey is organized.

He said the report which led to the Alvey programme had rejected the concept of a single information technology centre, arguing that creating fellows at existing centres was more practical and probably cheaper. Professor Michie believed the Alvey plans amounted to "a dispersed national information technology institute" and implied acceptance of the usefulness of having a centre even if not backed by public funds.

He proposed to raise core funding

for the institute from industry, initially from a non-profit company already established in Edinburgh, Machine Intelligence Research Affiliates. Subscribers to this company's services would provide the revenue for the long-range research of the institute to begin.

Further funds would come from contracts and extensive provision for academic work. "The institute should provide places for students and staff from any UK university or polytechnic who wish to embark on work in areas where the institute is active, much as high-energy physicists go to the Rutherford Laboratory," he said.

He felt it was essential for the institute to have a special relationship with computer science and engineering departments at a nearby university, and the institute would initially offer

OECD calls for clearer 16-19 policy

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has called for a major report by the end of the year to clarify trends and policies on higher education and training in member countries.

The OECD's decision stems from concern over the serious problems experienced by young people employers and the national authorities because of the lack of a comprehensive approach to the problems of the 16-19 age group as well as lack of a clear coordinated policy in the wide range of options that exist.

The study which is to be conducted by the OECD's education committee will focus in particular on the upper secondary level and equivalent training schemes. It will examine how these evolved both in response to the needs and interests of the majority of the age group and to attempts to mould them into the initial stage for continuing and recurrent education.

The report will have three main strands. The first will be an examination of the main factors that are likely to influence the relevant education and training policies including pressures and constraints within the formal education system.

The second part will review briefly recent trends in the development of post-compulsory education and training and analyse its organization in some depth in a selected number of countries.

The final part will examine key problems and dilemmas as well as measures currently being discussed and envisaged by member countries. Among the issues which will be covered are the attitudes regarding the extension of compulsory education, and the requirements of further and higher education.

Professions urged to pay their share

by Felicity Jones

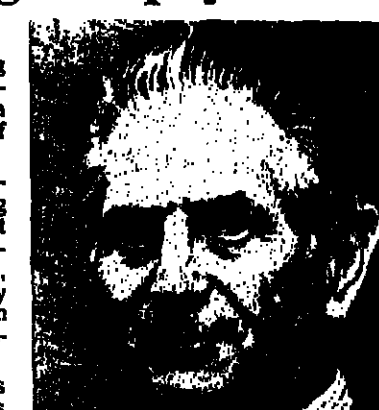
The main responsibility for continuing education should fall upon the employer, Sir Monty Finniston told a conference at the Royal Society of Arts.

Sir Monty, chairman of the committee of inquiry into the engineering profession, was speaking to eminent members of the professions. The conference, chaired by Sir Henry Chilver, chairman of the National Advisory Body's industry committee, was on new approaches to continuing professional development.

Though it was true that governments and other state-subsidized institutions had a role to play, nevertheless the initiative for continuing education should fall upon the industrialist who was primarily concerned with and benefited from the professionalism of employees, he said.

The accelerated cycle of periods of intense innovation led to the demand for professionals who Sir Monty described as having "know-how, know-what, know-why, know-whom, know-how much and know-when".

But there was no single system of knowledge which could provide the



Sir Monty Finniston: provocative speech

gross national product and nearly 14 per cent in 1980. Only continuing progressive education in the broadest sense would match the changes.

His speech provoked some of the wherewithal for the professional who in 1970 contributed 7 per cent to the architects, engineers, accountants and lawyers who were attending this first ever inter-professional conference on continuing education which had been

organized by the Continuing Professional Development Construction Group, a group of eight participating bodies in the building industry which aims to promote continuing education.

The greater responsibility for continuing education fell to the individuals, the professional institutes and government, said Mr A. Brett-Jones of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, rather than too heavily on the employer.

Three professions - the accountants, surveyors and more recently the planners - have introduced mandatory continuing updating in some form as a prerequisite for continued membership of the profession.

The Royal Town Planning Institute is committed to a two-year experiment from next year making it obligatory for all members to undertake at least 30 hours of continuing education.

Sir Monty clarified his position and said he meant it was the role of the employer to set the environment in which continuing professional development could flourish but the resources from the institutes and government would be needed. He favoured a percentage taken from general income tax for the purpose.

MP puts degree challenge to Thatcher

A Labour MP has challenged the Prime Minister to prove that she is anxious to see other women enjoy the university education she had.

Dr Oonagh McDonald, MP for Thurrock, has written to Mrs Thatcher complaining that Government policies are depriving increasing numbers of qualified young women of a university place.

She says that women are suffering more from the cuts because fewer

places are available in the arts, humanities and social sciences.

The chance of a university education may not come to young women later in life, and they will lose out in the competition for jobs and senior posts.

Dr McDonald commented: "It is outrageous that there should be such discrimination when we have a woman Prime Minister who prides herself on having not one but two degrees."

"How can she climb the university ladder herself and then kick it away so

that others cannot?"

In her letter Dr McDonald says: "I hope you will reconsider your policies and set in such a way that you will convince the as yet unconvinced that you are anxious to see that other young women have the opportunities you had."

Numbers of women students fell from 31,960 in October 1980 to 30,876 last year, but the total was slightly higher than in 1979.

HMI report warns of cuts effect on staff

Continued from Page 1
biology in one biology course because of a lack of equipment.

Research was found to have suffered over the four-year period from the start of the inquiry in 1978, with local authorities reducing their financial support and the research councils providing little funding for the sector. Reasons given for the decline in effort by staff included time-consuming course resubmission procedures, increased teaching hours and inadequate research facilities.

Especially in engineering, the report found the non-replacement of staff leading to academics teaching up to 10 per cent extra time on part-time contracts. "The persistence of such policies will clearly lead to the shedding of part-time and higher technician work, and, more worryingly perhaps, delay the introduction of younger staff into de-

partments," it said. The Inspectorate also complained of over-teaching in some institutions and an over-emphasis on notetaking with students failing to react even when a lecturer wrote something on the blackboard which did not follow from what was said. "Occasionally, it was difficult for an observer to be convinced that what was in fact taking place in the lecture room was consistent with higher education," said the report.

Doubts were expressed about the suitability of some students admitted with low A level scores for honours courses, although those admitted without the normal qualifications were found to be highly-motivated and hard-working. Even in language courses the Inspectorate found grammatical errors in the written work of final-year students.

Departments were said to have overloaded some students' timetables, in

one case eight hours, or 30 per cent, above the time approved by the Council for National Academic Awards. Although there were other examples of timetables being reduced below that stated, overloading was considered a great problem and one which seemed to be causing some absenteeism among students.

The report listed a number of examples of "imaginative practice" by academic staff and found that most students who took polytechnic or college places as a second choice to university soon got over their disappointment and became enthusiastic about their courses and the support they received from staff.

Degree courses in the public sector of higher education, *An HMI Commentary* from DES Publications Department, Centre, Honeywell Lane, Canons Park, Stanmore, Middlesex.

The report was trying to ensure that "a fair procedure was used to be adopted by selecting a neutral committee."

The committee members, says the tribunal's report, were under "considerable pressure both from Professor and Mrs Dick, who were determined that she should be appointed, and a strong body of opinion at influential levels within the university" opposing the appointment.

But the tribunal agreed with Mr William Nimmo-Smith, QC, appealing for the university, that the selection committee members were "decent, honourable men who had been put into a very difficult position in which they had maintained their integrity."

Give us parity, say polys

by Patricia Santinelli

An injection of "new blood" posts and the reinstatement of the secondary BED in all subjects to restore parity with the university sector is being sought by the Polytechnic Council for the Education of Teachers.

The council has told the National Advisory Body's new teacher education committee that last year's allocations of places further damaged public sector teacher training, which had already experienced a decade of cuts.

"The university sector taken as a whole has had but one year of serious cuts and this quickly brought in the concept of new blood posts," the council says. "The severe contraction of the public sector has led to major staffing problems with staff tending to cluster in the 40-50 age group. Therefore the case for a modest injection of new blood is self-evident."

The PCET says it does not deny the value of the Post Graduate Certificate of Education as one valid route to secondary training, it points out that the main iniquity of the 1982 allocations was the distribution of secondary PGCE places almost entirely to universities, mainly because of the Secretary of State for Education's preference for both that route and the university sector.

The council adds: "The secondary BED for all subjects is however a necessary complementary alternative which should be reestablished as soon as possible. The tragedy of the 1982 allocations was the virtual destruction of the secondary BED on logistic rather than professional or educational grounds without proper discussion and consultation."

It points to a further iniquity which has led to the insistence on 600-places units in the public sector, while universities were allowed to "get away" with units of 100 students which would be considered unviable in colleges.

The council also criticizes the Advisory Committee for the Supply and Education of Teachers' proposals to establish an accreditation body for teacher training courses. This meant that while limited, institutions would have to face approval, accreditation and validation in order to establish a single course.

It asks the NAB to give the proposals the highest priority in order to ensure that sensible mechanisms were established. It points out that if course approval became a joint responsibility for the NAB and Department of Education and Science, there was no reason why institutions should not submit a very simple outline of courses direct to the NAB. In most cases these could be approved within a few weeks.

The PCET also calls for a comprehensive national plan for in-service work based on the fullest consultation between all interested parties and with proper funding and support.

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Paisley social science review

A regular forum between Government departments, the three local authority associations and the Manpower Services Commission to discuss the future and implementation of the Youth Training Scheme as well as other programmes is to be set up shortly. The decision is the outcome of an earlier meeting between the three groups when it was decided that regular consultations were necessary to prevent problems which had occurred first over the Youth Opportunities Programme and now YTS and the Community programme. Conflicts have arisen over poor capital funding.

Breaking records

The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology has increased its research income by 40 per cent on last year, which was itself a record. New grants amounted to £6.3m in the year ending in July.

New look

Strathclyde University has produced a cassette to help disabled applicants. It was made at the suggestion of Outreach, a self-help group of blind and partially-sighted students in the west of Scotland and it advises on arranging a preliminary interview before entry, and special allowances for disabled students, as well as help with study methods, careers advice and social and welfare facilities.

Fresh advice

Seven new members have been appointed to serve on the Government's Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers. They are Mrs Audrey Curtis, senior lecturer in child development at the University of Hull; Mr John G. Jones, professor of mathematics, University of Warwick; Mrs Mary Hinge, principal lecturer, Edge Hill College of Higher Education; Mr Michael Power, Catholic Education Council; Mr Ronald Williams, chief adviser, Gwynedd County Council; Mr Vaughan Williams, assistant director, Gwent County Council; Mr Michael Pipes, headmaster, City of Portsmouth School for Boys.

In formation

A formation committee has been set up to establish the British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education (BACIFHE) to validate, and set the standards of, private colleges catering for overseas students. The committee will be a limited company, with charitable status, and will be responsible for inspecting institutions, or supervising inspection by other approved bodies.

Head hunting

Open University researchers have submitted 30 recommendations to the Department of Education and Science on how to improve the current practice in selecting secondary heads, teachers and other staff, following a three year project in this field.

Poly first

Mr Bob Porter, senior careers adviser at Leicester Polytechnic, has been elected chairman of the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, the first from a polytechnic to hold the post. He was previously head of the latter, London Education Authority careers centre.

Youthful promise

St David's, Lampeter, has established the Lampeter Award to encourage the most promising pupils in Wales. The competition is open to all "further" schools in Wales and aims to "foster a competitive spirit in academic subjects, to maintain and promote excellence, and to foster relationships within the Welsh educational world".

YTS forum set up in bid to avoid conflict

by Patricia Santinelli

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MSC urges 'responsive' adult training strategy

by Felicity Jones

The education of adults moved centre stage in the Manpower Services Commission's thinking with a keynote speech by its director Mr Geoffrey Holland and an initial discussion by the commission last week of its national strategy.

But the line of the MSC's thinking is unlikely to quash the worries of those who see the strategy as being too vocational-orientated and linked to the state of the economy, to the neglect of general education.

Mr Holland said in the Tawney Memorial Lecture at Matlock, Derbyshire that the country needed to build a new system based on the assumption that skills and knowledge can create

inadequate funding for schemes and restrictions in class sizes. Meetings are expected to take place at least every six months and possibly every four months. They will be used to discuss not only existing problems but to predict future areas of conflict which could have been avoided such as Mode B2 funding.

A working party has now been agreed between the Association of County Councils and the MSC to discuss the costing of schemes for 1984 including funding for Mode B2 schemes - those run by local authorities.

This follows a meeting last week at which the MSC rejected the association's case based on a survey of local authorities for an increase in the £2,100 grant limit. This is regarded as inadequate if good quality training is to be provided for the most disadvantaged youngsters, and the majority of local authorities are seeking between £2,700 and £2,800.

As a result of the rejection, the ACC has now written to all authorities advising them to take up their case individually with MSC headquarters.

Both chairmen of the ACC and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities education committees, who are members of the YTS board, are to meet Mr David Young, chairman of the MSC in the near future to discuss the reasons for seeking extra funds.

Mr Young's claims at last year's commission meeting that youngsters had come on to YTS expected because they were getting jobs or returning to school or college remain unconfirmed on a country basis. Only 125,000 entrants, taken up the 222,000 places available.

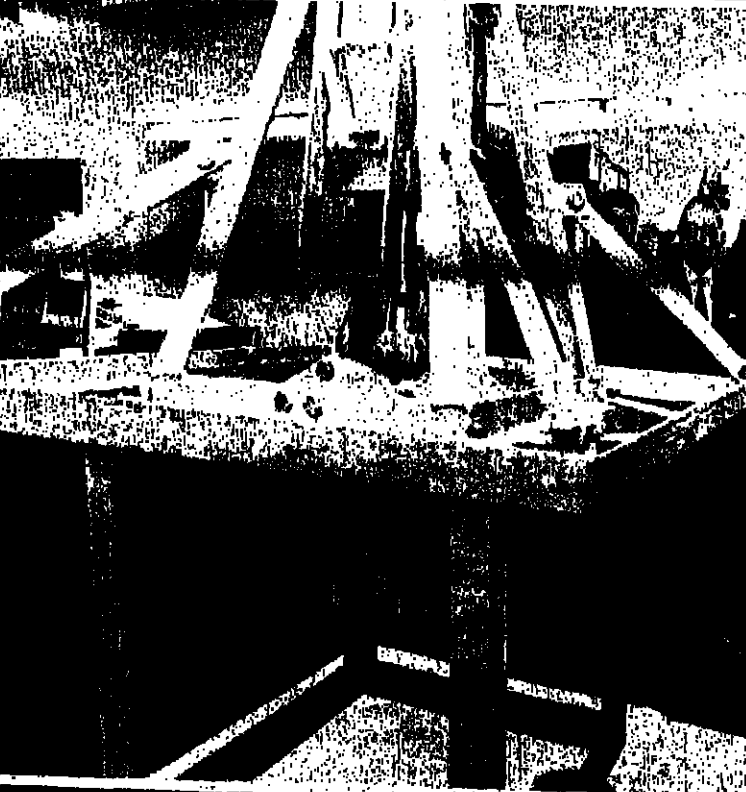
The Government has welcomed the initiative to clarify the safety status of YTS trainees. In a reply to the Health Department, Mr John Gummer, junior minister at the Department of Employment and the Health and Safety at Work, should be amended to ensure that employers' general duties to their employees also applied to trainees.

Mr Mick Farley, assistant secretary, Association for Teachers in Further and Higher Education has called on Government to withdraw and replace a memo which seeks to control political content of YTS courses.

Mr Farley is to be released from year secondment from the association to become the MSC quality service adviser for the south east, posted from November 1. Mr Farley will be one of a team of nine such advisers whose role is to ensure that the YTS is implemented and that progression from the schemes to other work is ensured.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, seems baffled by the sight of a sea-bed sampling device in Heriot-Watt University's Institute of Offshore Engineering. Mr Younger was attending an open day to mark the institute's tenth anniversary, at which its director, Dr Cliff Johnston, announced the launch of a new company, Environment and Research Technology which will develop the institute's contracting and consultancy services.

Last year, the institute's turnover was more than £750,000, most of which came from oil companies.



NAB officers study warning on art and design cuts

A warning that any severe reduction in art and design provision in colleges and polytechnics would be extremely damaging is being studied by officers from the National Advisory Body.

The warning comes from a study which has taken the unusual step of preparing what it terms a "special statement number one" because of the near monopoly it has in the setting and maintaining of standards in art and design provision.

The statement draws attention to the vocational importance of art and design, pointing out that art and design cannot be considered as "disposable subjects" and stressing the role of art and design in adding manufacturing value in Britain.

The CNAA has also prepared a second special statement on modern languages, stressing their links to other vocational subjects such as business studies or marketing and the need for better library and language laboratory provision.

Both statements are being studied by the NAB before it produces revised plans for the planning of the next public sector. Mr Christopher Ball, the NAB chairman, said they were being

Benefit meeting with Boyson

Welfare benefits channelled through the Department of Health and Social Security are as important to many students as grants, according to the National Union of Students.

And this week NUS took the first step in establishing with the DHSS the same sort of dialogue it has with the Department of Education and Science over the intricacies of student grants.

At a meeting with Dr Rhodes Boyson, Minister for Social Security, yesterday NUS leaders were to press their case both on the desirability of establishing a rapport, and on two specific grievances.

NUS says that the DHSS should recognise that not all students receive a full grant. The deduction assumed for students claiming benefit during Christmas and Easter vacations ignores the fact that many parents do not top up their children's grants. It also wants students away from their term-time accommodation during vacations to be able to continue to claim housing benefits.

NUS is not sure how many of the 350,000 students, mostly in further education, without grants are claiming welfare benefits, to complete their courses but believes it is a substantial number.

Extra work called to account

by David Jobbins

Consultancy work carried out by polytechnic lecturers is under scrutiny by local government auditors determined to ensure that public money is not being wasted.

Further education college and polytechnic budgets are one of six areas the district audit service has been specifically asked to examine. They will be using guidelines drawn up by the Audit Inspectorate before its transformation into the Audit Commission and published this month.

As disclosed in *The Times* earlier this year the inspectorate commissioned accountants Price Waterhouse to report on the accounting systems of a sample of six polytechnics in England and Wales. The value for money concept created a furor when applied to colleges in an earlier report by the inspectorate's staff.

The overriding wish of the Audit Commission is that value for money should be pursued in all six areas specified - including the polytechnics. About half the auditors' time will be spent on the designated areas and reports are expected on performance during the 1983/84 financial year in autumn 1984.

Local government auditors are advised to obtain details of any existing central or departmental system of controls on consultancy to establish whether the institution is repaid for its resources which are devoted to outside work and much money has been received in the past two years.

Most controversially it calls on auditors to find out if any companies have been established by combinations of polytechnic staff which may conflict with or encroach upon the interests of the polytechnic.

The report recommends a sample check on projects to test the controls against abuses.

Leaders of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, who expressed concern at the application of "value for money" to academic activities in the colleges, regard the report on polytechnics as essentially innocuous.

But without firm guidelines auditors are likely to draw on the recommendations for the colleges which attempted to construct an equation of resources applied to results obtained to measure performance when they tackle polytechnics. In the more rarified heights of advanced further education such techniques would be bound to produce a storm of protest.

Other guidance on auditing polytechnic accounts deals with the financial controls on research, and the establishment of its true cost; staff costs and staff-student ratios. Auditors are also requested to obtain recent Council for National Academic Awards reports on departments.

A mitigating feature is the recognition of the problems posed by multi-site operation and the suggestion that auditors should attempt to verify these. Education: Polytechnic Expenditure; The Department of the Environment Audit Inspectorate HMSO £4.90

Young allege we rejected the scheme because we were opposed to private training agencies and because off-the-job training was not being provided through further education colleges. Manifestly, that is untrue, since we have approved many schemes which have their own in-house training.

Mr McCleish said the board deferred its decision on Pittman since it had no proven record in the regions concerned, and there were doubts about the quality of its training.

Deferring the decision would give local firms an opportunity to run schemes, and if there were difficulties, the decision could be reappraised, he said.

Mr McCleish stressed that the

The matter would be raised at the Scottish committee's meeting later next month, when a full explanation would be sought.

The area board had shown quite legitimate concern over whether an outside agency was able to operate suitable courses when good local facilities were underused, said Mr Pollock. "This could be seen as a small local difficulty, but it indicates the very great divide which exists between the Conservative philosophy of the MSC's purpose and that of the rest of us: many of us are prepared to work with the MSC only on the understanding that we see a broader educational purpose than simply masking unemployment figures."

Mr Pollock, general secretary of the Educational Institute of Scotland and a member of the MSC's Scottish committee, said it was very worrying that Mr Young saw himself as being able to impose his views on a Scottish area board, and that there seemed virtually no place for the MSC Scottish committee.

The matter would be raised at the Scottish committee's meeting later next month, when a full explanation would be sought.

Increase in graduates on the beat

by Paul Flather

Graduates are flocking to join the police force, reflecting the high pay now on offer, better public relations and according to the Home Office "a new sense of realism" about policing.

Numbers applying for the police graduate entry scheme which promises "accelerated promotion" have soared from 319 in 1978 to 1,566 this year. The entry is kept to 20 to 30 a year, depending on standards.

The Home Office is very keen to attract graduates who it sees as providing the high levels of leadership required within the force. Currently eight of the 44 Chief Constables in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland are graduates.

A glossy brochure produced for the new "milk round" of graduate recruitment describes the "great personal and intellectual challenge" now offered by a police career. "Even when you are acting under orders, your own judgment and discretion will be the key factors in your ability to succeed," it says.

A graduate joining the force at the age of 22 would earn £8,010, which in London after allowances for rent and food would be £7,200.

Superintendent Michael Gray, the graduate liaison officer, said interest from graduates was now very high. "A certain amount of realism has crept into campuses. Students know jobs are not easy to come by, and the police can offer a great deal."

He also put the interest down to better pay and conditions, and hard work down by the police in university and polytechnics. Officers plan to visit some 90 institutions over the next four months.

The special graduate entry scheme introduced in 1968 has proved very popular. But overall graduate entry has also been increasing, rising from 396 to 621 last year. Interest from Oxfordshire candidates has also been significant, accounting for seven of the 20 entry scheme places this year.

The police plan "familiarization courses" for 400 undergraduates at 17 centres around the country between January 3 and 6 next year.

The top tier of the police force should provide a link between the universities and the Government and would also be responsible for ensuring public accountability. The SEA criticizes the present UGC as being "reactive, unrepresentative and totally unaccountable" and in need of urgent and radical reform.

The SEA will recommend to the new national executive committee of the Labour Party that members of the sub-committee should be developing a series of proposed reforms involving overhaul of party headquarters which prevented them from looking for a new site for one educational building during the election.

Figures apply England, Wales, Northern Ireland. Source: Home Office.

Police Graduate Entry Scheme		
Applications	Accepted	
1978	319	21
1979	570	28
1980	770	22
1981	1,084	34
1982	1,388	27
1983	1,566	20

Total graduate entry		
Applications	Accepted	
1980	396	
1981	498	
1982	621	

The new initiative has arisen out of the corporation and the private steel construction industry's belief that steel has now overtaken reinforced concrete as the first choice material for large structures. But "engineering" teaching has been shaped by the ascendancy of concrete since the 1950s. So they decided the best way to rectify this was to find new money.

Teaching of structural steel design

MSC chairman's ruling angers Scottish boards

by Olga Wojtas

There is considerable anger in Scotland at the overruling of a local decision on the Youth Training Scheme by the chairman of the Manpower Services Commission.

The MSC's area manpower board for Fife and Central regions did not approve a training application for 210 youngsters from Pitman Training Services, who have been accepted by several area boards.

The Central and Fife area boards decided to defer approval for a year, but in a unique move, MSC chairman Mr David Young has overturned the decision "with the greatest reluctance" and ordered the scheme to go ahead.

In a letter to the board, he writes that Pitman's proposals "satisfy the criteria of the scheme and that the reasons for the board rejecting them are invalid".

But Councillor Henry McCleish, a member of the area board and leader of the Regional Council's Labour administration, claims there have been "total distortion" of the board's deliberations.

"Both MSC Scotland and David Young allege we rejected the scheme because we were opposed to private training agencies and because off-the-job training was not being provided through further education colleges. Manifestly, that is untrue, since we have approved many schemes which have their own in-house training."

Mr McCleish said the board deferred its decision on Pittman since it had no proven record in the regions concerned, and there were doubts about the quality of its training.

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James Cannell of Glasgow School of Art's product/furniture design department with his clock mounted on a rolled steel joist.

A glimpse of the blood of others

For the first time since art schools were founded last century, the work of students and ex-students will be shown in one location in the "Young Blood" exhibition and conference at the Barbican Centre, London in November.

The ambitious programme aims to offer a glimpse of the way our streets, homes, clothes and entertainment will appear in the next decade and will feature more than 2,500 examples of student work from 60 colleges and polytechnics.

The "Young Blood" exhibition will coincide with three conferences on art and design education and industry planned by a company specifically set up to organize the event by Professor Bruce Archer, professor of design research and design construction at the Royal College of Art; Mr Leonard Stoppani, principal of West Surrey College of Art and Design; and Mr Ken Baynes, head of the design education unit at the RCA, with the backing of Government departments and industrial companies.

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Teaching of structural steel design

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Animal bill being drafted

New legislation on animal experiments is still a year or more away, but the government is determined to push it through.

Mr David Mellor, under secretary of state at the Home Office told the British Veterinary Association congress in Lancaster last week that a Bill is now being drafted for next autumn. It will take account of comments received since new proposals to regulate use of animals in research were outlined in a White Paper last May.

Mr Mellor said three main criticisms of the White Paper had come from the commercial and scientific community - of the project licensing system which is at the heart of the proposed new system, of the proposed statutory advisory committee and of the introduction of fees for licences.

Under new arrangements, researchers will have to apply for project licences as well as being licensed as individuals. These project licences will only be issued if another senior researcher certifies that the proposed experiments are likely to succeed and there is no alternative method which does not use animals.

Mr Mellor said that the critics maintained that this and other measures would inhibit research. This was possible. The new controls were intended to prohibit some procedures which were now permitted. "The use of animals for experiments is a privilege, not a right," he said.

He was aware that some anti-vivisectionists would not be satisfied unless all animal experiments were banned. But the Government wanted to convince the "moderates" that experimental animals would receive the highest possible level of protection.

"Should this trend continue, and there is no reason to believe that it will not, then the hospitality of the Register of Chartered Librarians, the implications for approved training programmes and the position of the Librarian, will all need to be examined, as this affects manpower issues," he writes.

The second is the number of ex-students who obtained employment in library/information work but at sub-professional level.

The figures which were collected by the Library Association's manpower planning sub-committee are assessed in the latest edition of the association's journal by Mr Patrick Conway, a member of the sub-committee.

According to him the data shows that 16 per cent of first degree holders failed to obtain any type of work compared to 8 per cent of postgraduates. But this is set in the context of seven out of 10 of all library school leavers obtaining some kind of employment, a slight percentage increase on 1981.

Out of the 67 per cent of graduates who obtained work, some 9 per cent did so in non-library occupations, nearly three times the comparable figure for postgraduates.

But Mr Conway points out that two sets of statistics will require further investigation and action. One is the number - although small - of both graduates and postgraduates who obtained work in non-library information agencies.

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Movement that fiddled while Rome burned

Gerard Connolly offers a view of the significance of the Oxford movement

With the retirement of the legendary Dino Zoff, the Italian goalkeeper, this year, it may be worthwhile reminding readers that 1983 is also a year to recall a fellow countryman of his who can lay similar claim to having made the save of the century. Not this century, however, but the last. Nor is his name, Dominic Barberi, likely to evoke too many sporting memories. He was a Catholic priest and his catch that set the tongues of English commentators wagging, providing demonstrably the high spot of a movement which got off the ground 150 years ago was the soul of John Henry Newman, perhaps the most celebrated convert from Anglicanism to Rome.

In an age altogether uncomfortable with purely religious agonizing, it is not always easy to appreciate the strength of opinion which surrounded the "going over" of such men as Newman and other educated notables, products of what was dubbed the Oxford Movement and as a nod towards those of their *alma mater* who pursued a high vision of churchmanship.

Yet such was the consternation and euphoria among Protestants and Catholics respectively in England at the time, there was even talk of the collapse of the established church fuelling wild expectations of an imminent restoration of the country to Roman Catholicism.

A brief glance around, however, would seem to confirm neither prophecy to have been fulfilled. Newman's defection following that of others, including HRH the Princess of Wales's ancestor George Spencer, for all the psychological edge it gave to Catholics at large in an unfriendly Protestant society, was never followed by more than a modest number of imitators. (In so far as one can be sure about these things Catholic sources look to have frequently exaggerated the numerical impact of the movement.)

Moreover the spectre raised in squib shops and common rooms alike of a once industrious England turned into something resembling a run down Irish holiday camp soon receded, giving way to other public preoccupations. Less than 10 years separated Newman's act of submission, on his knees incidentally, to Rome, from a publication by Charles Darwin which was to give the University of Oxford a great deal more food for thought than the former's notorious *Tract XC*.

Undoubtedly Catholics acquired in Newman the services of a formidable intellect at a time when their own episcopate looks to have been a bit short on cerebral vigour. But one cannot help but feel that for all the very real individual and family traumas inherent in crossing from Canterbury to Rome, for a league of the whole tempestuous episode could easily be made to appear a storm in a polite teacup.

Even those with an interest in the fortunes of Catholicism who might be thought to have more reason than most to feel the movement, have begun to show signs of impatience with the personality cult surrounding Newman. As with Thomas More, the gist of hagiography once thought requisite to sustain his reputation mercifully appears on the wane.

The image of both men has of late lost its intense polish. A recent and widely admired study of post-Reformation Catholicism in England, *John Henry Newman: A Study of his English Catholicism*, by John Bossy, despite its title, found it necessary to deal with either of them. For Catholics — and one might add Protestants also — this would have been an unpalatable loss of *idol-majesty* but a couple of decades ago, clearly it is possible to detect motions of reassessment.

Without dwelling on the circumstances, Catholics, possibly more than any other Christian community in England, have clung to a version of English history distinctively their own. Nor will it come as any surprise to suspect to anyone to learn that at its crux this amounted to a list of heroes and villains.

Among the latter, Henry VIII and Oliver Cromwell figured prominently, while on the other side the story was one of individual steadfastness and martyrdom. After prolonged persecution by the English state, the "true faith" began a period of inevitable decline, reaching a point of near extinction sometime in the late 16th century.

The Oxford Movement is now 150 years old. According to its leading figure, John Henry Newman, the great "Catholic revival" within the Anglican Church grew out of John Keble's sermon "National Apostasy", delivered at St Mary's Oxford, in July 1833. The sermon coincided with Newman's return from Rome and with the abolition of ten Irish bishops, an act that provoked deep doubts about the Church's position when attacked by Government. In a series of *Tracts for the Times*, Newman set out the principles he shared with Keble, Hurrell Froude and Edward

Pusey: the integrity of the Prayer Book, the divine mission of the Church as an extension of the Incarnation, and the principle of Apostolic Succession. The storm which accompanied the *Tractarian Movement*, another of its aliases, reached a climax in 1841 with *Tract 90*, which argued that the Thirty-Nine Articles, the basis of Protestant Anglicanism, did not, in fact, disavow or refute Catholicism. Increasingly alienated from the majority within the Church of England, Newman eventually followed the logic of his views and seceded to the Church of Rome.



of heresy as a lapse into bad taste, at best passé; and nowhere more so than when called upon to pray for those once known as their "poor separated brethren". Preserving identity with a measure of generosity might adequately summarize the present *status quo*.

Meanwhile a process of Catholic historical and consequently psychoanalytical reassessment continues. Tudor statecraft, for example, no longer commands attention as an anti-Catholic operation, *par sang*; and even Oliver Cromwell has been spared a number of his stick-on warts. Of potentially greater interest has been the growing consensus, celebrated in the 1981 centenary of the Georgian Catholic bishop Richard Challoner's death, that contrary to their self-projected image as an unresolvable rift, Catholic men and women of the eighteenth century *relied* lives as English subjects prior to the onset of Irish immigration.

Far from being stuck up chimney shafts awaiting the Irishman Daniel O'Connell and liberation, the English Catholics of the age of industrialization found freedom enough to play a positive role in that great transformation of English society, even to the point of prospering in union with it. More than one Catholic fortune was made with loom and forge by rural migrants in such places as Lancashire or Staffordshire.

All things considered, it appears fair to say that no aspect of previous historical traditionalism save the fact of Irish stimulated growth and the triumphal appropriateness of the Oxford men has escaped some element of reassessment. Regrettably for those who find value in the persistence of school orthodoxy, these also may be about to undergo reevaluation.

It is now almost 20 years since the Irish American historian, Emmet Larkin, gave a jolt to the cozy presumption of English hubris that Irish and Catholicism were timeless, unchanging axioms in an otherwise shifting world. He was able to argue convincingly that it is reasonable to assume large sections of the Irish population to have acquired their reflex for Catholic practice in a modern sense — the observable, ascertainable, especially on the second half of the nineteenth century — as a result of the mass immigration to the United States.

This situation is, to deploy the diplomat's euphemism, "at a delicate state of accord" among members of his profession.

However, if one may take counter-reformation to involve also a conscious measure of Catholic internal reform, like that of its Protestant namesake, replacing a religious life bound up with public acts of fasting and fasting with a more direct towards individual decorum and discipline, notably in external acts of ritual, it may also be accepted that such reformism made an unequal impact in Ireland prior to the great famine of 1846-49 reducing the population, a plausible reasoning emerges.

This does not mean, of course, that Irish men and women were by inclination indifferent in their religious behaviour. Quite the opposite I would say. Nonetheless what it does imply is that for a significant number of them, the outcome of being a Catholic, say on the feast of Corpus Christi, had more to do with what would pass for a devout attendance at Mass in the parish church.

Reading between the lines of Larkin's analysis it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that what modern conformism would rate as "non-practising" Irish Catholics made up a huge percentage of those emigrants from Ireland arriving before the middle of the last century. An impression confirmed by the alarmed reaction of English priests (missioners) on first encountering them. Since during this period well in excess of half a million such Irish found their way onto the British mainland from Larkin to London, these are the substance of fabled nineteenth century Catholic expansion.

But question: if considerable numbers of disembarking Irish men and women brought with them to England little or no notion of regular Catholic obligations — is the Council of Trent directed, from whom did so many of them acquire their "newfound" instincts for habitual observance? The answer, as it seems to have unfolded at its most dramatic (and provocative), from the English, or specifically the English missionaries.

There is more. Even assuming an over-simplification of what was a complex process, there is now no reason to doubt that these same Irish Catholics, the eleventh hour saviours of a bound English Catholicism but, contrary interrupted, as mentioned something of a revival, one of its strongest features of which looks to have been an unspectacular yet very attachment to Sunday Mass and the sacraments was lacking among sections of the Irish poor, who were missionaries. The net result of early immigration was to import non-practice into a reviving English Catholicism on an unprecedented scale, rather than rescue it bringing it back to a whistler of collapse.

What had this to do with Newman and his associates? Very precisely the point. The critical present confronting Catholics in England during the first half of last century beyond was, put baldly, how to shoestring budget to stop an appearance the rot of Irish non-practice that was menacing the future of Catholicism in England, instead of an incessant immigration to advantage.

Yet does not this tend to lay the question as to why it is that conversion of those splendid old chaplains has come to be deemed a major event, centre stage in the re-establishment of a Roman Catholic Church in England? For sure any miraculous occurrence here has to do with the enormous success of the English missionaries in converting Irish men and women against all the odds.

Possibly proof that God helps two help themselves, since the creation of a popular Roman Catholic Church in England owes a handsome debt to the human dedication and native virtues of those mostly English missionaries to the Irish with long recusant names — Gillow, Hark, Worward, Blundell etc — an avowal of whom gave their lives back to the enterprise, struck down by disease and exhaustion. Few of them far as I am aware would lay claim to much as a prototype pair of Oxford bags. Under such circumstances, as I have threatened to waste away, might prove a more fitting future epitaph for the movement taking place alongside the public gaze.

Ironically for a fraternity that has its name, the University of Oxford, at least has proved something of an elephant's graveyard, contributing little or nothing of weight to the originality to the advancement of a decent domestic Catholic historical analysis.

Not manifestly the appeal of Newman at all looks to rest upon anything as good as more personally inspirational. I would be surprised, therefore, if the author of "Lead us not into temptation" did not continue to capture the wide audience of his fellow Catholics and indeed his fellow human beings irrespective of changing modes of appreciation.

In a Christian world showing signs of a maybe none too healthy vocational obsession for the latest building of the religious institute for social progress — an apparent irrelevance born of concern for individual spirituality — Newman's interior life, had a personal loneliness about it — may come to breathe of fresh air.

For my part, growing up in the climate of the activist apostle, Newman have always found John Newman's fondness for burdensome abstraction a touch pathological. The English must admit to having my own private back whenever I hear his soul call for deep.

Take me away, and in the land of the deep.

There let me be.

There will I sing and soothe me.

Stricken breast.

Whither he or can cease.

To throb and pine, and languish in a post.

Of its Sole Peace.

And if such words fail to improve, self-evidently sublime, perhaps the answer because they are wanting the music of Edward Elgar for whom Newman was acting as librettist. Concisely there is another tangled soul.

The author is preparing a new history of the nineteenth century Catholicism in England.

In his evidence on behalf of the Advisory Board for the Research Council to Lord Rothschild's inquiry into the Social Science Research Council, the then chairman of the ABRC defined the "prime function" of a research council as follows: to identify the best research which may be done in its field, defined by its charter; to identify the best way of getting it done; then to provide the means by which it may be done.

In his subsequent letter of October 14 1982 to me, Sir Keith Joseph wrote: I think it right to say once again that I clearly understand and respect the constitutional relationship between your council as established by your charter and the Science and Technology Act 1965. I fully accept that within the normal requirements of accountability it is for the council to determine its priorities — in the light of all the representations made to it including those of central government — and (short of a direction) to decide how to spend its money accordingly.

As regards the level of funding itself, it is my intention that when the volume of contraction to a smaller base has been realised the council could count on a period of real stability at that lower level at least.

Taken together, these quotations define the successful outcome of my chairmanship; they also emphasize the council's duties to exercise its independence vigorously and responsibly. One aspect of our responsibilities that has recently again attracted notice is the issue of "fundamental" versus "practical" research. My own personal view is that I hope to obtain the occasional fundamental insight in the course of a lifetime of painstaking effort to understand practical issues.

Those who cannot accept that approach must accept another: all the research councils, without exception, support both highly applied and very fundamental work. When they are lucky, they get extra "commissioned" funds to cover some of the applied work. Sometimes bread has to be thrown on the water first.

The mix of spending in any case is for councils to decide. Sometimes in other fields, brilliant young chemists or biologists find this fact difficult to swallow. Social scientists, by the nature of their disciplines, should understand it more readily and normally do so, except for the odd silly remark in the silly season.

But the duty, emphasised by the ABRC quotation, to choose among fields of study, modalities, and persons, is a tough one. The dictum "support the best research, support the best people" support the vigorous curiosity of the scientific community" is part of the faith of all heads of research councils.

As chairman of what we must soon learn to call the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council), I have regarded it as my duty to nurture above all the capability of scholars and scientists in the universities, polytechnics and independent institutes to do first rate empirical research. And that first rate requires the development of top class methodology, and top class analysis.

That is, however, a starting point. What has preoccupied me during my 37 months of straightening the line, retreating to prepared positions, holding off attacks (we have lost a lot of acreage but have not withdrawn totally from any significant piece of territory), was of course firstly survival: "What did you do in the French Revolution, grandpère?" Mon petit, j'ai fait que j'organise la survie.

But I have also striven to put the complex machine I inherited, each part of which had been intelligently constructed and operated, into a shape where the strategic decisions necessary to a research council could be made, could be seen to be made, could be made with some deliberate speed and vigour.

This issue should not be fudged. The ESRC must rely as much as its sister councils do on the flourishing of the dual support system. Free scholars, pursuing their independent lines of inquiry, untrammelled by application forms or requirements for reporting, distant as can be from the organs of state power — these must be one of the mainstays of intellectual endeavour in our disciplines, as far as any of the natural sciences or the humanities are concerned.

Our concern for the flourishing of the university environment, and our anxieties about recent pressures, must

Farewell SSRC; hail ESRC

Michael Posner looks back at his period as chairman of the Social Science Research Council



Michael Posner: 'I have regarded it as my duty to nurture the capability of scholars and scientists to do first rate empirical research.'

JOHN VOOS

therefore be keen. Although that does not mean that our research council is in any way unsympathetic to those vice chancellors who have been achieving radical redirection of efforts within the walls of individual universities in the last two or three years.

There is however a fundamental division of effort, a division of labour and function, between the work supported by university funds and the work supported by research councils. Most work in economic theory, or sociological analysis, or speculation and argument in political science can be done, within universities, with university money; and even some modest empirical research should be financeable by that route as well, perhaps with a modicum of necessary support from private foundations.

For instance, the most distinguished economist of my generation collected material for a recently published empirical study literally on his bicycle, cycling from village to village to inspect local records. As far as I know, he received no research council support for that work, which is of acknowledged excellence.

On the other hand, our research unit in historical demography at Cambridge has used not only the (unpaid) help of hundreds of local historians, but also the computer backing and full-time staff necessary for the production of their recent equally distinguished research history of England. Our research council exists chiefly to encourage, within its very limited budget, for comparative and collaborative work with overseas partners; for increasing the tenured strength of the Science Policy Research Unit in Sussex; for rearranging the system for the support of criminological research in the UK, all of them using modes of support quite different from the CEPR principle. And the traditional individual research grants still take a larger proportion of our total spending than they do for most of our sister councils.

While all this development on the research side has been continuing, and while we have been conducting our discussions with Lord Rothschild and the Secretary of State, our financial position and the harsh choices that they have imposed on us have led to a reduction of more than a half in our support for postgraduate training. And we have just announced the outline of the way by which we will over the next four years provide postgraduate support — a balance between a "student choice" scheme, and the more traditional research council "quota award".

Over this historic compromise much ink has been spilt, and it is right to attribute to the Secretary of State the credit of bringing the issue to a head at this time. But during the whole of my five years, I have been

tenured research posts should not be supported, could surely not be supposed, that in all respects the social sciences in the UK are utterly unlike the sciences supported by other UK research councils and utterly unlike social sciences in other countries?

The German fashion, by which senior university professors aspire each to have their own little research institute, with temporary or part-time staff, may be right for us to imitate in some respects; but the French system, not without its notable successes, is precisely the opposite — the tenured *chercheur* is the rule.

We must pick and choose, in a quite catholic manner, from all the methods open to us. The new Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) which we (together with private funders) have helped Richard Portes to create, is designed specifically to activate the skills of existing holders of tenured university posts — an excellent idea.

But while my colleagues and I were arguing this striking innovation through the council, we were also pressing forward with other innovative schemes: for comparative and collaborative work with overseas partners; for increasing the tenured strength of the Science Policy Research Unit in Sussex; for rearranging the system for the support of criminological research in the UK, all of them using modes of support quite different from the CEPR principle. And the traditional individual research grants still take a larger proportion of our total spending than they do for most of our sister councils.

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Over this historic compromise much ink has been spilt, and it is right to attribute to the Secretary of State the credit of bringing the issue to a head at this time. But during the whole of my five years, I have been

bombarded with argument pro and con on this matter from the universities, and my heartfelt advice to you all is to allow this compromise to run for a few years — both the universities and our own committees need that much respite.

Respite in a more general sense is also deserved by the SSRC staff, sharply reduced in numbers in tune with the fall in the council's overall budget, and buffeted by change in a way at least as intense as suffered by any other part of the British university and research world over the last years. For my closest colleagues, the secretary and deputy secretary of the council, I have been an unruly pupil and a sometimes headstrong pathfinder. No one will be surprised when I speak of the long hours and late night telephone calls that have linked us.

But I would also speak up for the rest of the council's staff, holding the ship together in stormy days, drafting and redrafting papers which seldom received the attention they were due because of the more immediate pressure of political events; the task of holding the confidence of the academic community in times of uncertainty has

been severe. I am sure they will find from Douglas Hague the leadership and understanding support which is their due.

What is peculiar about our experience is that it was the social scientists themselves who were under attack and their research council merely their most vulnerable flank. Of course the attack was political, but not exclusively in a party sense: while many practical people from industry, the Civil Service, and from the world of research in the natural sciences have shown a shrewd and consistent understanding both of the contribution that can be expected from the social sciences and of its limitations, the press and the political world have been more volatile.

Twenty years ago there was great enthusiasm, and perhaps the product was rather oversold in consequence; by the end of the 1970s, cynicism and disillusion with our work was the general rule. Our job now is to restore some balance to the argument by producing a steady stream of solid, sensible analysis, well-founded on fact, bravely controversial when necessary, modest and sober when that will do the job.

The success and promise of work in our field should not be underestimated. Victor Rothschild made a splendid case for social anthropology, against the philistines of all parties; all our work can be similarly defended. The very language used by all concerned citizens — alienation, culture, cultural identity, multiplier process, computer analogues for mental processes — emphasizes the pervasive nature of our disciplines. Sometimes it is wise and timely to press our usefulness, at other times the rigour of our analysis, at others the care of our scholarship. All are required, and the establishment need to be reminded of them all.

The ESRC will not be able to turn the tide on its own. The welcome new association of learned societies in the social sciences will I am sure make a contribution, but of course it is largely the social scientists themselves who must pull themselves up in public esteem by their own boot straps.

We, however, know that we still have to turn down three quarters of the research applications that come to us. In blunt language, that means that in any representative audience of empirically minded social scientists, I am accustomed to meet 25 satisfied clients and 75 disappointed ones. And there will be several hundreds more lurking in the background, who are either too grand, or too preoccupied with their teaching, or who make their excellent contribution at their typewriter in their own garret — the very best of luck to that last group, not just because that is what I'll be doing myself for the next year!

But the ESRC, and its chairman, will always have a key role to play. I am sure they will do splendidly, and they deserve the support of all of us.

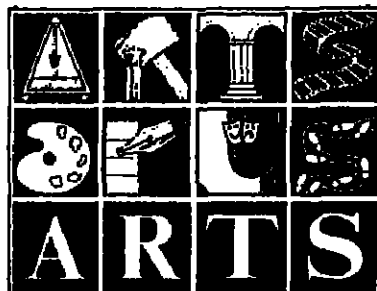
The author retires today as chairman of the Social Science Research Council.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) YEAR

This year, the Government has encouraged everyone to know about and exploit IT. What about IT in British higher education? Are academics aware of IT, and do they exploit it? What impact has it had, in particular, on teaching approaches?

In June this year the THES published an 8-page special feature which tried to answer some of these questions. Contributors include David Hawkrige, Professor of Applied Educational Sciences and Director of the Institute of Educational Technology at the Open University, Margaret Boden, Professor of Philosophy and Psychology at the University of Sussex and A. N. Barrell, a Mathematical Scientist at the Computing Laboratory at the National Institute for Medical Research.

Reprints of this 8-page feature are available, price 80p including postage and packing within the UK, from Frances Goddard, The Times Supplements, Priory House, St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX. Please make your cheque/postal orders (no cash please) payable to Times Newspapers Limited.



ARTS

Revivals

"New Beginnings"
Pentonville Gallery, Lamb's Conduit
St, London WC1
Until October 15.

Prefixing "new" to any venture somehow conveys an ironic whiff of nostalgia, implying that you are looking back to some past project and drawing inspiration from it rather than looking forward. The avant-garde, particularly in the visual arts, currently find themselves in that curious double bind where public interest and tolerance permit the revival of older experiments and strategies and then simultaneously nullify them.

The "old" Pentonville Gallery, based first near the Angel, EC1, and then at Chalk Farm, used to gleefully pass round the *Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Mail* stories that screamed "rubbish" and "What a load of Art". The "new" Pentonville has moved uptown to Lamb's Conduit Street on the fringes of Bloomsbury and has, to its credit, thought hard about its role in 1983.

In his introduction to the inaugural show "New Beginnings", Jeff Sawtell reminds us of Marx's and Hegel's point that history repeats itself: once as tragedy, twice as farce. Voltaire put it more pungently and more relevantly to the plight of much avant-garde effort with his maxim on experiment: once, a philosopher; twice, a parrot. Given public reaction, to bang away at the old experiments seems perverse if not actually perversed. The contemporary artist has had to accept that the days of the "old", Dover Street ICA are gone.

If the double affirmation of "New Beginnings" suggests a negative or at least a doubt, then there is no question that the exhibition takes a measured look back at styles and procedures (and artists) rather than leaping eyes-shut into the "latest thing" conceptualist, Pop, radical expressionism, mixed

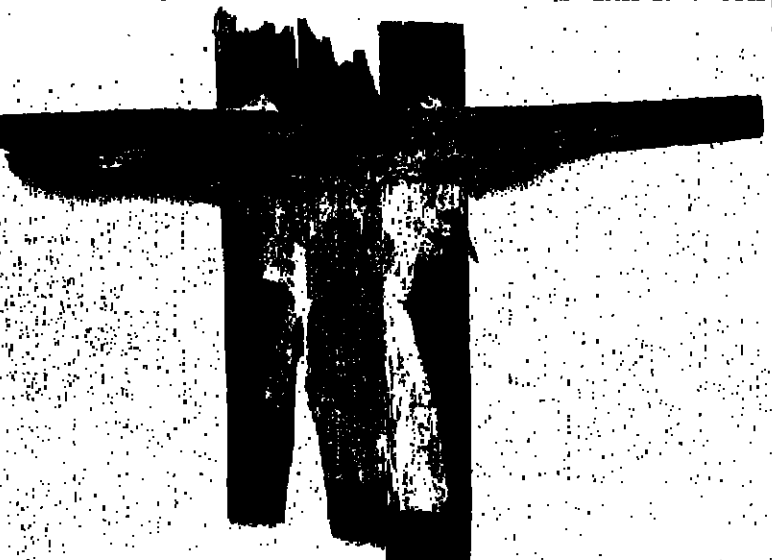
ROGER SILVERSTONE on a new film about advertising; BRIAN MORTON on the avant-garde; and RUPERT CHRISTIANSEN on the National Sound Archive.

media, all get an airing; Klimt, Schiele, Duchamp, Judy Chicago and the feminists lurk. The difference is in the intensity with which all of the artists in "New Beginnings" have assimilated hard-won styles to a common anxiety about violence, the threat of war and repression - social, sexual and political. Peter Kennard's "Defended to Death", Tim Malyon's images from Greenham, Jeff Sawtell's own "Doves" (below), images from Nicaragua and South America, show an awareness of responsibility which was lacking in the old "new" days. Vaughan Grylls's photographic reconstructions of modern history - the bomb, Dallas, Borchgrevink - are among the most powerful images currently available.

The theme of "New Beginnings" is really the relation of an artistic avant-garde to a society that previously rubbished it and now perhaps recognizes the accuracy of its vision. Jacqueline Morreau, borrowing stylistically from some mid-ground near Munch, Schiele and Kathie Kollwitz, strikes the keynote with her portrayal of Mary Richardson, the suffragette who slashed the Rokeby Venus in 1914. Militant feminism is now producing strong, and not merely ideological, images like Morreau's and Sue Brown's. More important, artists have turned their attention out to a public world which, by its very antagonism underlines the importance of art. The "old" avant-garde tended to shrivel and introvert or to resort to Dada gestures.

The Pentonville looks to be one of the most promising "new galleries" in London with an intelligently critical awareness of its own output which contrasts well with the old self-congratulation and wilful perversity.

Brian Morton



One of Jeff Sawtell's "Doves", from the "New Beginnings" exhibition.

Events

Continuing exhibitions

To October 10, Impressions Gallery, York. The *Glosses* magazines from the 1950s and 1960s.

To October 16, Cartwright Hall, Bradford. Ben Nicholson paintings and reliefs.

To October 20, Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery, Exeter. Devon skills of weavers, spinners and dyers.

To October 22, Artland, Bristol. Robert Mapplethorpe: photographs 1970-1983.

To October 30, Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Oliver Messel stage and film designs.

To October 30, Forster Gallery, Hull. A *Traveller's Journey*: Tjallingii, Hiller, RA 1905-1983.

To December 11, Salisbury Centre, University of East Anglia. Pottery of Miss Coper (1920-1981).

To December 22, Whitworth Gallery, University of Manchester. The *Drawings* of J.M.W. Turner: drawings from the Whitworth collection.

New exhibitions
From October 5, Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. Washington Wilson's photographs of Victorian Glasgow.

From October 6, Gardner Centre, University of Sussex. *Power and Image*: the use of paper as an artistic medium.

From October 11, Royal College of Art, London. *Albert: his life and work*. Major exhibition, sponsored by *The Observer* and the Midland Bank Group, on the fruits of the Prince Consort's patronage.

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"Going West": the decay of Brighton's West Pier is a photographic exhibition by Peter Weller. It can be seen at Brighton Polytechnic until October 6.

Easy listening

One afternoon in the early 1930s an innocent young man walked into the London Gramophone Shop and asked for a particular recording of Dohnányi's Violin Sonata. On being informed that it was out of print, he made for the British Museum, blithely assuming that records were deposited in a copyright library much as books were. He was, of course, sadly disappointed, but the experience was not forgotten. After the war an older and wiser Patrick Saul established the notion of the British Institute of Recorded Sound and managed to make it a reality. In 1955 it found its first permanent premises, and since 1961 it has been financed by government grants-in-aid. It is now housed in a handsome Victorian mansion in Kensington, and earlier this year finally became an official department of the British Library.

The collection now consists of nearly half a million discs and perhaps 35,000 hours of recorded tape. It is not legally covered by copyright library practices, but the great majority of companies have agreed to supply two copies of every release (duplicates are stored in a tunnel under Belzate Park). Apart from commercial issues, ranging from the prototype wax cylinders to compact discs, the archive makes its own tape recordings, including new plays and music from the BBC; poetry readings and literary festivals; and all RSC, NT, and Royal Court productions, as well as much from other west end, fringe, and provincial theatre. A staggering amount of ethnic material, both musical and linguistic, is possessed, and there is also a section devoted to wildlife sounds. The archive's new director, Dr Christopher Roads, has come fresh from an imaginative oral history project at the Imperial War Museum, and further developments in this area are expected.

Such material presents a peculiar set of problems. Storage and damage are headaches for any library, but here the staff also have to cope with times-consuming administration of badly defined sound-copyright legislation. The most daunting difficulty is that of

cataloguing: eventually it is hoped that the collection can in some form be incorporated on to the British Library's computer, but at the moment the lack of a satisfactory cross-referenced index often leaves researchers frustrated.

The only authoritative reference work for recorded music has not been reissued since 1956, and every new release since then, from anywhere in the world, has been entered on to an impressive but cumbersome card index by the indefatigable Eric Hughes, who is also the archive's information officer. The 1,500 records which are acquired each month represent only a fraction of the total world issue Hughes attempts to keep pace with. This catalogue (which the archive sponsors and uses) is uniquely comprehensive, but as Hughes freely admits, it is impossible to be systematic, and the larger it grows, the longer it will take to transfer the information into more retrievable shape.

Under the Conservatives, the National Sound Archive has done better than most. This year's grant stands at £400,000, but this is scarcely enough for a full and smooth-running programme of operations. Apart from school and student parties, only about fifty individuals a week use the free listening facilities. Given the riches available - Tennyson and Browning reading their poetry; Brahms and Gounod conducting; Queen Victoria and Hitler speechifying; Percy Grainger's collection of folk music and Sir James Frazer's anthropological recordings, to mention but a few - the public is showing a certain lack of imagination about exploiting a century's worth of cultural history.

One hopes that the archive's new status and the support of a larger institutional machine will lead it to become as popular as it deserves to be.

Rupert Christiansen

The National Sound Archive is at 29 Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AS. 01-589 6603. Mon - Fri 10.00-4.30 (Open Thurs). Free listening facilities available by appointment.

October 14, Gypsyway Borough Hall, London. Orchestra of the National Centre for Orchestral Studies at Goldsmiths College, in a programme of Dvořák, Bruch and Walton.

October 14, Arts Centre, University of Warwick. Imrat Khan plays sitar and tabla.

October 15, Watlington College, Oxford. Capricorn: chamber music.

October 17, University of Surrey. A reading by D. J. Enright.

October 17 to 22, Arts Centre, University of Warwick. London Contemporary Dance Theatre.

October 18, University of Essex. Concert by His Majesty's Sagitts and Cornets: a birthday tribute to Frescobaldi (born 1583).

October 20, Lancaster University. English Gamelan Orchestra. Modern and traditional Javanese music.

October 20, Mitchell Hall, Marischall College, Aberdeen. The Hilliard Ensemble.

October 23, Barnfield Theatre, University of Essex. Carlos Bonetti: classical guitar.

October 25, Rediff Hall, University of Sheffield. Organ Recital by Simon Standley.

October 29 and 30, The Triangle Area, University of Sheffield. Weekend event on sound.

October 7 and 8, Arnoldcliffe, Bristol. Lisa Kraus. American dancer in a programme called *Goin' South*, which grew out of a workshop at New York University.

October 9, Great Hall, Durham Castle, Durham. Sinfonia. Programme includes Elgar's Symphony No 1 in A flat.

October 10 to 15, Gulbenkian Studio, University of Newcastle. Lumbers and Son in *Spazler*: a thriller opera.

October 10 to November 5, Birmingham Theatre Festival. Plays by leading British playwrights, plus workshops and forums.

October 12, Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. The concert of the Royal Northern College of Music.

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Consuming images

Advertising is a sign system. Advertising mystifies the power relationships of our society. Advertising naturalizes the arbitrariness of the historical order. Advertising ignores production. The advertisement degrades women. Advertising exploits. Advertising tortures. Advertising is a sign system.

Those who disapprove of advertising - and disapprove theoretically - but their slogans, perhaps less easily than those more familiar to us hoardings and television screens, are equally intangible in their effect on power to persuade. For those who disapprove, advertising carries a burden of culture far greater and more omnipotent than anything claimed by those whose job it is merely to "sell our customer's product on the mind of the consumer". Some say we get to advertising we deserve; others that a distinct and distinguished art form, a major focus of our culture's creative energy. For most of us, probably advertisements are simply part of everyday life - glanced at, stopped through, rarely (at least in our own account of the matter) acted upon perhaps we don't see or understand them too well. Perhaps we don't want to.

The Institute of Contemporary Art must believe that we don't see or understand but that we do want. During the last five weeks it has presented a series of seminars, shows and mounted an exhibition devoted to advertising under the title *Consuming Visions*. A book follows. Its aim is to turn the familiar into the unfamiliar and as a kind of aggressive parody of its subject, to present something approaching an alternative ideology to that presented to pervade advertising's pre-emptive of our dreams.

The centrepiece of the event was by Judith Williamson, *A Sign of the Investment*. Her book, *Debris*, *Advertisements*, was published in 1980 and quickly established itself as an important text in the emerging critical discipline of culture analysis. Advertisements create meaning: they are meaningful in a sense far removed from the simple instruction, direct or indirect, to buy. They can be described as Marxist, Freudian and Levi-Straussian: they reveal levels of unconscious work which have profound implications for our understanding of bourgeois culture. Advertisements like *The Way of Zen* into a dialectic of image and object. Humanity is denied. Truth is denied. History, nature, society are denied.

Her film is rather more focused. The message is that contemporary advertising ignores the world of work and the doing masks the reality of the production process, separating consumption from production and fantasy from reality. It is not always so, of course, and the film attempts to document transitions in advertising practice. A chart work's gradual disappearance from the consuming image. Work was OK once, when foreigners did it. It was sufficiently distant to be used when women would be shown working. But now only housewives are left. But they work hard to consume. The message is clear, but mediated by images, and perhaps inevitably mediated by its own medium.

The beauty of advertising, and the virtue of the ICA's event, is the alternative visions that both give and take. If the first is an expression of the culture's folklore, the second is an attempt to refuse that folklore's validity. We should not believe it. But we do, mostly. And in so doing we present a still unresolved but interesting paradox: one to be resolved only when the slogans have been set the agenda.

Roger Silverstone

Roger Silverstone is lecturer in sociology at Brunel University.

BOOKS

Chronicler of the everyday

by John Cruickshank

French and Germans, Germans and French: a personal interpretation of France under two occupations 1914-1918/1940-1944

by Richard Cobb
University Press of New England,
£10.95

ISBN 087451 225 5

Still Life: sketches from a Tunbridge Wells childhood

by Richard Cobb

Chatto & Windus, £8.95

ISBN 07011 2695 7

The subtitle to the first of Professor Cobb's two books places the emphasis rightly on the subjective nature of his approach - something which has encouraged him, in books like *Second Identity* and *A Sense of Place*, to "humanize" historical writing and to pay particular attention to what he himself calls "the familiarity, the everydayness, even the sheer banality" of things.

This very distinctive character of writing is the outcome of much preoccupation with his own thoughts and experiences. This one would expect in the book about his childhood in Tunbridge Wells: but even his analysis of the two occupations of France is preceded by a self-absorbed and self-indulgent preface containing detailed but scarcely relevant accounts of pram rides with his nanny and various awful experiences in various awful dentists' chairs. In the end, this is a small price to pay for what is a remarkably individual approach to recent French history - one which avoids the worst forms of intellectual abstraction.

It is mainly the practical story of ordinary people and of their very human reactions to the experience of occupation. The drama and the heroics inseparable from so many accounts of those days are firmly rejected. Cobb is very interested, and rightly so, in the minor *collaboration* and the minor *resistance*. By the same token he is sharply dismissive of the professional intellectuals of the period. Referring to the *Manifesto of the French Intellectuals* of March 1942, he writes that "there is apparently no limit to the conceit - and to the humourlessness - of a French intellectual, ever ready to pontificate in public on this issue or that". He emphasizes the arrogance of Gide "electing to remain Above It All", sees Drieu la Rochelle as "an intellectual who was prepared to try anything once", refers severely to Drieu's "fellow traveller and narcissist, Malraux", and characterizes Cocteau as a "sad and aging naughty boy".

The first chapter of *French and Germans, Germans and French* has the title *Occupants and Occupied: the Département du Nord*. It is an account of what life was like in the industrial belt on the Franco-Belgian frontier between 1914 and 1918. Taking a few lines from a novel by Maxence van der Meersch, *Invasion* 14, Cobb uses them to imagine life in towns like Lille and Roubaix during the freezing wartime winters. The houses had been largely stripped of wood by their inhabitants in order to light fires for warmth. Many civilians slept on the floor (having long since burned their wooden beds) and listened in the darkness to the dull rumble of night trains moving men and materials to the front. This was "a railway war" in which "the fodder of offensive and counter-offensive are shunted this way and that, eastwards and westwards, across vast night landscapes". There is also a good deal of speculation on social and sexual relations between *occupants* and *occupied*, just as there is the suggestion that the wretched, bitter French civilians were much better off than the German soldiers travelling by train towards the holocaust. Much of this is what Cobb himself calls "private" history or "the private vision of war and occupation", and he justifies it on the grounds that it is the kind of thing which military history and official documents largely ignore.

At the same time, the academic historian in Cobb turns to what he calls "the public record". He examines the



Richard Cobb

Litler Kriegszeltung, an official newspaper published by two officers of the Lille high command between 1915 and 1918, and he also uses official documents to determine how the 1914-18 occupation differed from that of 1940-44. There were no deportations to Germany in the first occupation and there were many fewer executions. On the other hand, the first occupation appears to have been more humiliating and to have produced much less resistance than that of 1940-44.

This later occupation is the main subject of the second chapter, and again particular attention is given to the way in which it affected the northeast. There is some discussion of the Vichy regime and of the fact that this area of France proved the most impenetrable to Vichy influence. It is an anglophilic region which also rallied to de Gaulle at a very early stage. Cobb makes the important point here that a general history of collaboration and resistance is virtually impossible. Local variations were striking. In Paris, for example, in the summer and winter of 1940, the working-class population of

Belleville and Ménilmontant could be seen fraternizing with German soldiers (influence on left-wing workers of the Russo-German pact?) while the western *arrondissements* of the city remained shattered and silent.

In his final chapters Cobb discusses the nature of collaboration in Paris in particular. His interest in ordinary people leading ordinary lives, and his emphasis on the everyday reality of occupation, enable him to understand "minor" collaboration extremely well - for example, the waiters, typists, shopkeepers, theatre and cinema staffs who served the Germans essentially from the desire to "carry on as usual". What we are given here is a refreshingly unheroic and undramatic story at the heart of the occupation. But Cobb also gives a very good account of the ideological *collaboration*, motivated by such varied ideas as vanity, ambition, anti-semitism, anti-parliamentarianism, anglophobia, anti-communism, and so on. Despite this latter motive, however, there was a good deal of collaboration on the part of the pacifist left, and one of the most notable

Academic success

The Emergence of Modern Universities in France, 1863-1914

by George Weisz
Princeton University Press, £26.00
ISBN 0691 03375 8

We are so used to regarding universities as key institutions in modern industrial societies that it is disconcerting to recall that France did without them for most of the nineteenth century.

The expansion of higher education after the Revolution concentrated on professional training, in the specialized *grandes écoles* or the law and medical faculties. Faculties of letters and sciences existed, but they had virtually no students, and professors had to create an audience by lecturing in a popular or oratorical style which appealed to the general public. Moreover, the different faculties in each town had no connection with each other, and France lacked a general theory of "liberal" university education - liberal education, based on the classics and philoso-

phy, was concentrated in the *lycées* and thought to and there - of a university model suitable for export. Instead it was the German model which was eventually imported to France, as to so many countries. By the 1860s France's lack of true universities was causing concern among patriots, scholars, and scientists, and a movement arose to link together the faculties, to provide them with serious students, and to conform to the Humboldtian "research ideal". The success and the results of this movement form the subject of George Weisz's important and original book.

Defeat in the Franco-Prussian war provided one stimulus to action, but Weisz argues that the real impetus came from the professional ambitions of the academic community itself. The *Société de l'enseignement supérieur* was founded in 1878 to spread the message that a "well-constituted higher education provides direction for the intellectual and moral life of a country" (Ernest Lavisse). Fortunately for the academic elite, their aims overlapped with those of the leaders of the Third Republic, and in the 1880s reformers were installed in vital positions in the ministry of education. Weisz documents the complex manoeuvres which, after a partial reform in 1885,

the law reconstituting universities was passed in 1896.

Giving priority to the research ideal seems to have been accepted with surprising ease, but finding a social role for the new universities was "more difficult". They could never shake the dominance of the *grandes écoles* in their own spheres, nor was it easy to challenge the immense prestige of Paris in cultural matters. Nevertheless, Weisz shows that the provincial science faculties had considerable success in attracting local funds, and built up successful work in new fields: like electrical and chemical engineering.

On the basis of this evidence Weisz makes a strong case against the view, once fashionable but now widely challenged, that the Third Republic was a "stalemate society" whose economy lagged fatally behind Germany's and whose institutions were incapable of adapting themselves to modern demands.

In the matter of student numbers, reform was spectacularly successful and evidently tapped a latent demand: between 1876 and 1914 law and medical students tripled, while those in the faculties of letters and sciences rose from under 600 to 14,000. A strong vocational bias, however, continued (most of the arts students were training

from June 1940 to June 1941, when *l'imperialisme britannique* had been the principal target. The aim now was *l'écrasement du fascisme assassin et barbare* (two adjectives rather than one being a rule of Communism clichés); after 1941 it would favour, as for the killer teams, three. *Que le sang boche coule, coule, coule* (that litany of incitement to murder, the message of hate tapped out again and again, designed to penetrate the thickest and most unresponsive of militant skulls, a child's primer, an *alphabetaire* of assassination, a message shrieked out in the sort of *unrelentment* later favoured, when spokesman of the party, by Auguste Lecœur.

Cobb adds: Linguistically, nothing could have been easier than for a P.C.F. (French Communist Party) militant to transform himself into a P.P.F. (Doriot's Fascist Party) militant: just a matter of hate speaking to hate.

The final pages of the book are on a very different subject, containing as they do a vintage Cobb meditation on the French bereft which he describes as "cheap, waterproof, convenient and very fetching when placed above a freckled nose".

Collaboration and resistance are partly seen and characterized by Cobb in terms of continuity and discontinuity. These are concepts which he also uses to shape his account of his Tunbridge Wells childhood. He ascribes his purpose as being "to rediscover the security and continuity of a society based on elaborate, if unstated, hierarchies of class relations of considerable subtlety". The viewpoint is that of a child and young man of the 1920s and 1930s who grew up in a world of nannies, living-in servants, and commuting and bridge-playing adults. Throughout there is a feeling for continuity and a dislike of change.

Inevitably, the temptation was too great to resist references to "monkey puzzle-tree territory", "the double-glazed brigade", "the Cannon Street contingent", and his mother's "Jaeger-clad and sensibly-shod friends". In another good phrase Cobb says that Tunbridge Wells "if not at all Army and Navy, was to some extent Home and Colonial". But he does not go in for easy or contemptuous jokes about the royal borough. He writes with considerable affection both of the town and of various characters, often seen through the eyes of a slightly puzzled but acutely observant adolescent.

His picture of his childhood creates that sense of place, and offers that response to human quibbles and quidnits, which are a feature of his earlier accounts of his "second identity" which is France.

John Cruickshank is professor of French at the University of Sussex.

to be teachers) and the new research ethos under fire for being too specialist and utilitarian. The Republicans had indeed developed an ideology of university education based on positivism, which saw the pursuit of scientific truth as the ideal which would unify the intellectual activities of the faculties, inspire a new elite attuned to the modern world, and promote social integration in a divided society, but this remained in the realm of rhetoric and aspiration.

In his chapters evaluating the successes and failures of the new system Weisz covers a wide range of subjects, and is never less than interesting. One may mention particularly his discussions of the development of the academic profession, of the attacks on the universities by the political atmosphere which followed the Dreyfus affair, and of foreign students; attracting whom (it is interesting to discover) was seen as a very early stage as a bonus for French cultural prestige and for the worldwide influence of French industry.

Robert Anderson

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BOOKS

Radical poetry

Vision and Disenchantment: Blake's Songs and Wordsworth's Lyrical Ballads by Heather Glen
Cambridge University Press, £25.00 and £9.95
ISBN 0 521 25084 6 and 27198 3

The purpose of this book is to compare Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience* with Wordsworth's *Lyrical Ballads* as radical poetry. Although both poets were clearly innovators in poetic form and social vision, Dr Glen's argument is that Blake was the more profoundly challenging thinker in his own time and remains so still. This general thesis might not seem particularly original, but what is fresh and valuable is the way in which Dr Glen explores it through very close readings of individual poems. She focuses attention in a new way upon the relationship between the speakers of these poems and their mental worlds, attempting to assess the ways in which they respond to suffering, social injustice, and personal isolation. These she sees as constituting implicit social or political visions which are often tacitly accepted by the reader. Dr Glen insists that we should be aware of their implications, valuing those poems which challenge assumptions and which imagine new ways of seeing and relating to others, and questioning those which ultimately seem to end in isolation and defeat.

These are important criteria to bring to bear on this poetry, but it must be said that the book gets off to a slow start. The early chapters place Blake's *Songs of Innocence* in the context of contemporary children's verse, and Wordsworth's *Lyrical Ballads* alongside protest verse in the radical *Morning Magazine* and the more conservative *Geni's Magazine*. What emerges, as one might expect, that the poetic language of Blake and Wordsworth challenges expectations and undermines assumptions in ways that more conventional poems of protest do not. The most interesting aspect of this part of the study is the emphasis on Blake's divergence from, rather than the more usually emphasized similarity to, the radical religious and political thinkers of the time: Swedenborg, Boehme, and Paine.

The real thrust of this book however begins with the full chapters on the *Songs of Experience* and *Disenchantment*. Here Dr Glen offers what is essentially a new reading of the *Songs of Innocence* and a fresh evaluation of the relationship between those poems and the *Songs of Experience*. She argues powerfully that the *Songs of Innocence* are not "childish" nor "simply 'utopian', nor do they represent a 'naïve', which is inevitably lost with maturity; nor are they simply part of a dialectical, contrary with experience. Rather they embody the essence of the Blakean social vision which discovers within real social and personal experience a profound view of the self, not a private ideal, but rather something constituted by dynamic engagement with other individuals and social groups - the self born and reborn in imaginative social responses.

This provocative interpretation of *Innocence* allows Dr Glen to see in the poem like "Infant Joy" an exploration of a genuinely creative relationship between mother and child and in "The Echoing Green" an absolute celebration of play and interchange involving both adults and children. In this she finds a basic model for imaginative social relationships, which she compares interestingly with modern studies of "successful" parent/child relationships.

Looked at from this point of view the argument that in many ways the *Songs of Experience* are criticisms of those narrow, rationalistic, egocentric limitations of their speakers which cause their social isolation. Her detailed studies of "The Fly" and "A Poison Tree" are particularly interesting in this respect.

Dr Glen's most original and challenging move, however, is to turn this vision of *Innocence* against Wordsworth. She fully recognizes the radical

nature of so much of Wordsworth's early poetry, for example its refusal to assimilate suffering in any easy way. Powerful figures like the "Old Man Travelling" or "Simon Lee". But she points out that in the *Lyrical Ballads* of 1798 there is often a fall into self-absorbed reflection that contrasts sharply with Blake's outward-moving vision. In the "Goslar Lyrics", added in the 1800 edition of the *Lyrical Ballads*, she shows that there is an emphasis on the "sealed subjectivity" of those who experience loss and isolation. In "Grasmere Poems" such as "The Brothers" and "Michael" she points out that there is a sense that human nature is revealed most profoundly in defeat or rejection, or in a "survival" which exists only in the memories of small communities which are themselves essentially isolated limitations of

vision in these celebrated poems. This interpretation of Blake's *Innocence* is fresh and thought-provoking, but the study as a whole does have limitations. As the book goes on the *Songs of Innocence* become too easily and far too repeatedly the sole standard by which everything else is judged. Furthermore, too much is said or implied about the whole of Blake and Wordsworth on the basis of these particular works: a completely adequate discussion of these themes would require full consideration of at least *Jerusalem* and *The Prelude*. Dr Glen makes things too easy for herself by focusing on these early works. And even here some of her analyses are too reductive: her study of "Tintern Abbey" hardly does justice to Wordsworth's own exploration of the dynamic relationship between

subject and object; and her own readings of the "Lucy" poems belie her crude conclusion that in contrast to Blake's vision "The 'Lucy' poems lead to a stark dead end". Finally, there are simplifications of thought which detract from the strength of her argument: her repeated references to what the "poetic reader" of the time would expect are too glib. Despite these defects, however, this is a valuable book essentially because it makes us question our literary instincts by asking what kind of assumptions about man and society they involve. Or again it forces us to consider the implications of our traditionally associating profundity in literature with suffering, isolation, and defeat. It is refreshing to find a critic who can respond sensitively to Wordsworth's language and at the same time ask

whether its vision represents a kind of disillusion with man and society which we too often unquestioningly respond to as "truth".

Frank Stack

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Cowper's therapy

Cowper's "Task": structure and influence by Martin Priestman
Cambridge University Press, £19.50
ISBN 0 521 23643 6

Once set in motion by Lady Austen's challenge - "Write upon this sofa!" - Cowper might seem to have produced his major poem *The Task* by a process of free association. In fact, his themes and transitions were controlled by the same conflicts and anxieties that made the writing of it so important as self-therapy. Launched on a confident praise of landscape in Thomson's mode, he found himself drawn to an aspect of nature that could image his own despair - the sea, into which his doomed sailor slips. In a one-line prefiguration of "The Castaway" (1.54). Likewise, self-assured satirist on town life in book two led him on to horrifying visions of sin that belied his show of poise. In book three a Horatian celebration of retirement made him question in increasing depth the value of his own "laborious ease". Thus the main "task" of the poem - to be self-justification - ultimately impossible in Cowper's life, but precariously achieved within the poem, and pursued through changing moods and modes with considerable gains in self-awareness.

Such is Dr Priestman's account of *The Task*: a richer and stranger poem than the charming, relaxed affair we read of in the *Oxford History of English Literature*. His comments are nearer those of Morris Golden in *In Search of Stability*, though he takes more account of Cowper's wish to make his narrator an exemplary Christian figure - one who "repeatedly subsumes and becomes subsumed in the local and historical 'Cowper'". The oscillations set up by Cowper's urgent but contradictory needs are nowhere more rapid than in the first half of book two, where he tries in vain "to umpire a future, reasonable between different versions of himself". The triumph of the poem, in depth of insight and integrating power, occurs after this point and are most impressive in book five. In a final chapter Dr Priestman shows by detailed comparison that Wordsworth's *Prelude* owes a larger debt to *The Task*, in form and in content, than has previously been appreciated.

Dr Priestman's reading is on the whole persuasive, and reveals him as a poet of important dimensions. His analysis of the poem is well known, but like the description of book one, it makes us feel what sick attention we have paid it before. Even the best successful stretches of *The Task* come to life when we are made to see what "dangers and escapes" (Cowper's phrase) it reveals and enacts. Dr Priestman is not only good on detail but on the metaphorical value of what is usually taken literally. Cowper's structures, his growing moods, his testaments, have all now been treated as a mild joke, a gentle affront over prosaic material. In a critical tour de force Dr Priestman interprets these as the will of poetry. Natural objects whose significance is sensitively explored include the sea, the river (a more fruitful metaphor for Cowper than the walls and the ice-palace). Of course there are opportunities for

disagreement. In book one Crazy Kate does not stand on the shore, as she is said to do and as the symbolic scheme requires: she need not even be living near the sea. When Cowper writes that the vice of profusion "Makes men more vermin, worthy to be trapped" (II.685) we need not, like Dr Priestman, take this for authorial misanthropy; this is how men seem to commercial predators. The historical background sometimes feels a bit shaky, and a few topical references are missed. But these are small faults in relation to Dr Priestman's achievement. His is the best critical book on Cowper that I have seen, firmly focused on the poetry and (another Emipsonian trait) serious without being solemn. It is not easy reading, but will be obligatory for all who desire a closer walk with Cowper.

Derek Roper

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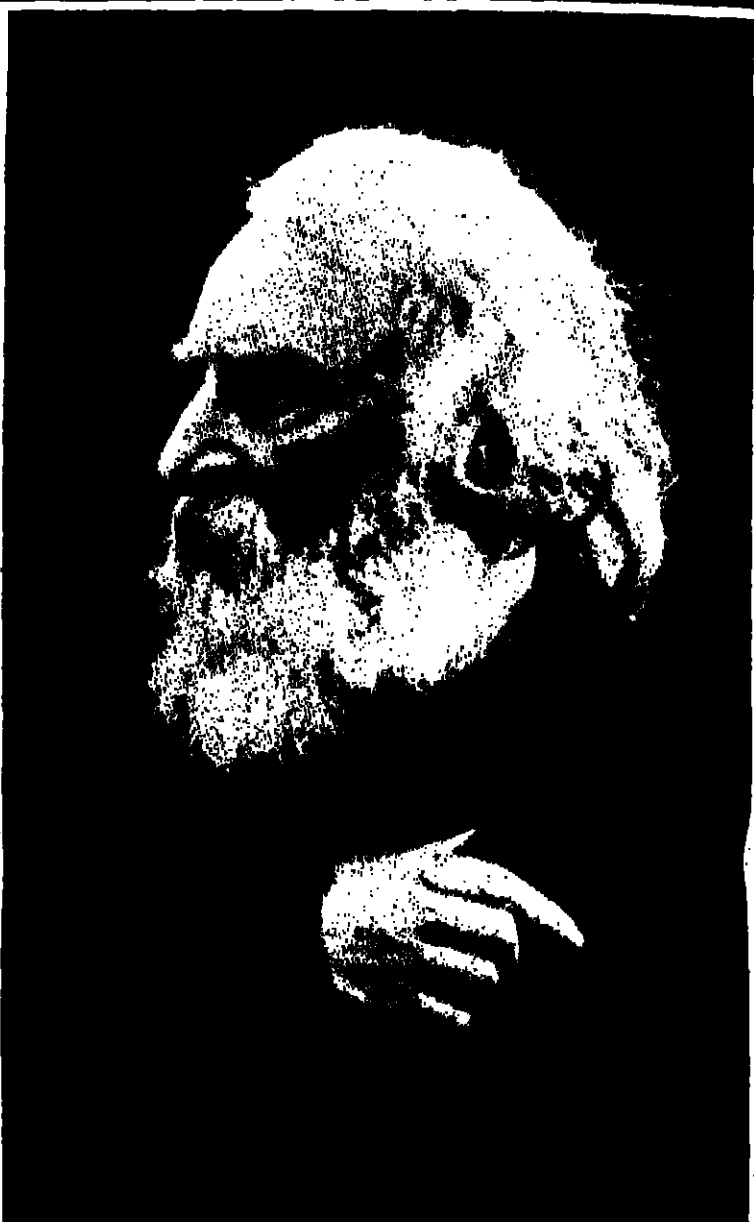
Types of Christ

Typologies in England 1650-1820 by Paul J. Korshin
Princeton University Press, £26.10
ISBN 0 691 06485 7

Religious typology (not to be confused with typology meaning classification) is the ancient study of the prefigurative relationship between the Old and New Testaments, or the way in which people or events or things in the Old Testament were believed to typify the life of Christ in the New. This way of interpreting scripture was enormously influential not only for theological but for secular literature, and in recent years literary historians, following the lead of Auerbach's essay "Figure", have devoted much attention to the uses of typology in medieval, Renaissance and later literature. Bar M. Korshin's volume on *Literary Uses of Typology*, to which Korshin contributed, is a notable example.

Korshin is the first to attempt a systematic study of typology in the period 1650-1820; his aim in this long, ambitious, learned, and somewhat un-likely book is "to find the intellectual basis of typology in the literature of the English Enlightenment". He divides typology into four main kinds: conventional (biblical exegesis), applied (for example the Christian interpretation of pagan literature, or the drawing of analogies between biblical and contemporary history), and the "secular" (which has links with the second but which is largely secular in its emphasis), and natural (the habit of finding prefigurative structures in the natural world). His concern is largely with the "secular" typology, or episodes in secular literature which deliberately parallel or echo biblical types for non-theological purposes. Korshin sets out to provide a history of why and how abstracted typology developed from the middle of the seventeenth century, illustrating it, very widely from the poetry, fiction, and non-fictional prose of the period.

Korshin does not really get into his stride until the middle of the book. The first two chapters in which he sets out his typology are rather repetitive and could be more simply presented. His analysis of the period is full of interesting details and includes the gradually important subject of the



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, photographed by Julia Margaret Cameron in 1868, from a new study of her work by Margaret Harker published yesterday by Collins at £3.95.

of the non-Christian study of classical myth, is a very knotty one. Easily the best chapters in the book are those on typology and the novel and typology and prophecy". Korshin is right to emphasize the great popularity of the *Kempis's Imitation of Christ* in the period, and its connexion with the many postfigurations of Christ who appear in fiction, Sir Charles Grandison being the most elaborately developed example. (Given the importance of Richardson for the subject of this book, it is surprising to find that Korshin does not mention *Clarissa*, which has links with the second but which is largely secular in its emphasis), and natural (the habit of finding prefigurative structures in the natural world). His concern is largely with the "secular" typology, or episodes in secular literature which deliberately parallel or echo biblical types for non-theological purposes. Korshin sets out to provide a history of why and how abstracted typology developed from the middle of the seventeenth century, illustrating it, very widely from the poetry, fiction, and non-fictional prose of the period.

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ment of complex ideas and structures over a considerable period of time, and interest will find it useful. However, a number of questions remain. Korshin freely uses the term "Enlightenment" as equivalent to "the period 1650-1820" (presumably as a substitute for "Augustan"). But "Enlightenment" has clear secularist connotations, and there is something absurd about including Bunyan, Blake and Joanna Southcott under this label. Towards the end of the book Korshin says that secular writers with a dissenting background are more likely to use typology than others. This may be true, but he has not shown it. Indeed, one of Lovelace who is incapable of understanding his Christian meaning). Among Korshin's many interesting comments on the development of the novel, perhaps the most important is his account of the blending of the pagan character (the static representative of a class) and the Christian type (who plays an active role in the Christian drama) into the character type, whom the reader can recognize, and whose role he can predict. Towards the end of his chapter on Geoffrey Korshin suddenly illuminates his earlier discussion by pointing us to Blake's account of "Chaucer" and the *Canterbury pilgrims* in *A Descriptive Catalogue* as the best account of the typology of characters in the period 1650-1820. One of the strengths of this book is Korshin's determination to trace the develop-

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BOOKS

Genetic leash

Promethean Fire: reflections on the origin of mind by C. J. Lumsden and E. O. Wilson
Harvard University Press, £14.00
ISBN 0 674 71445 8

In the bad old days we used to debate the relevance of ethology to human behaviour. The discussion tended to degenerate into haggles about whether mankind did or did not possess instincts. We now debate the relevance of sociobiology to human behaviour. High passions still rage and many silly things are said on both sides.

Lumsden and Wilson raised the tone of the debate with their monograph *Genes, Mind and Culture: the coevolutionary process* (Harvard University Press, 1981). In this they granted that much that people do is learnt by cultural transmission, but they suggested that the human mind is built in such a way as to be more likely to choose to adopt some practices than others. In other words the genes may constrain what is learnt. The monograph, however, was written in impenetrable English and contained a good deal of advanced mathematics. *Promethean Fire* is a shorter and more popular version.

Lumsden and Wilson's main argument is that, although people are free to make particular cultural choices, their judgment is biased: they will be more likely to adopt practices that promote Darwinian fitness than those that do not. In the process of evolution an unprepared mind or *tabula rasa* would be handicapped compared to a mind that was equipped with clues about the answers to problems of adaptation. A formal proof of this is offered in *Genes, Mind and Culture*.

But does such a bias operate in practice? Although Lumsden and Wilson provide seven examples, all but two are unhelpful. It is not in dispute that certain aspects of movement may be unlearned - for example the elements of facial expression. Nor is it controversial that our sensory apparatus may constrain our perceptions and thus our actions - for example, we apply colour words according to the way our vision categorizes colours and our perception of patterns is determined by the proper maturation of the visual system. It is not news that we are born with a sweet tooth; and even in the headiest days of the rows between ethology and social science it was agreed by all that babies disliked strangers (and loud noises).

Two cases are of greater interest. First, people are predisposed to fear some things much more than others - for example, hairy spiders more than plants. In clinics patients often report with phobias of heights or open spaces but rarely with phobias of electrical plugs. We tend then to be frightened not of anything that we know to be dangerous but of those natural dangers which it pays all animals to avoid. In other words, our emotional reactions are biased.

The second intriguing fact is the ease with which both children and adults are persuaded that they should not have sexual intercourse with their relatives. Most people are unaware of the reasons why genetic counsellors would advise against incest; yet they nonetheless avoid it. Like other animals, we seem to find greater sexual attraction to those individuals with whom we have not been familiar from an early age. In other words, our sexual attractions are biased. Issues such as these have been the subject of academic debate in psychology and ethology, and several books of collected papers have been published on constraints on learning and on preparedness to learn.

It is simply not true, as Lumsden and Wilson claim, that "the zeitgeist of contemporary psychology for the most part favours a 'blank-slate' mind". Suppose, however, that the critic accepts that people are naturally wary of some things and that, like animals, they are not equally attracted to those they have known from infancy. Lumsden and Wilson will have to go a long way further before they will persuade the critic that the bias in cultural choice

pervades all the important aspects of our intellectual and social life. They do admit that they have not yet addressed the more complicated patterns of behaviour and the institutions of advanced societies, but promise that their approach will prove to be "the only way to go". But why accept their assurance?

The issue is not whether a complete account of human behaviour will have to mention the genes, culture and their interaction. It is the degree of constraint that is at issue. Few people commit incest, but many of our cultural choices are much less constrained. Lumsden and Wilson acknowledge this, but argue none the less that the genes always hold culture on "an elastic but unbreakable leash". How then do they explain the fact that people willingly use contraceptives and have themselves sterilized, preferring

goals other than their Darwinian fitness? Why fret about the leash if the elastic is that thin?

It is unfortunate that the style of this popular version will annoy many readers, as the arguments require unbiased attention. Although the mathematics have been omitted, words like "sapientize" and "un-Darwinized" have been allowed. And the authors' account of their own mental evolution is sometimes vulgar: "by the end of 1978... the sociobiology controversy was in a stalemate. Charles Lumsden's arrival at Harvard created an opportunity to break the impasse".

R. E. Passingham

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Igneous geology

Igneous Rocks by Daniel S. Barker
Prentice-Hall, £29.70
ISBN 0 13 450692 8

Ten years ago we all read the classic and weighty text by Turner and Verhogen. Since then the number of undergraduate textbooks dealing with igneous rocks has increased dramatically, at least three - of which Barker's is the latest - having appeared within the past two years. Like most recent works, however, Barker's book has been written at a more elementary level, it includes less descriptive detail but a more diversified treatment of the wide range of topics associated with igneous geology.

The book's American publisher claims that the book is suitable for undergraduate geology majors who have had a year of college chemistry, and for beginning graduate students. In British universities, however, although it would be suitable for second-year and third-year undergraduate courses, substantial supplementary reading would be required to offset deficiencies in some areas. The author writes in a clear and straightforward style, and by avoiding most of the more complex subject matter has produced a book which is easy to read and intellectually undemanding.

All the conventional material of igneous geology is covered. However, any work attempting to cover the entire subject in little more than 400 pages must spread itself pretty thin in at least some areas and is likely to be of variable quality. Here, the author has not set his sights very high, with the result that his book's main strengths lie in some of the descriptive sections and those which offer practical advice on petrological techniques. For example, in the excellent passages on textures, pyroclastic rocks, and many other aspects of volcanology, the author goes to some trouble to explain how to describe rocks, how to perform modal analyses and what a chemical analysis means - topics very often omitted from other books, probably because they are so obvious that authors forget their significance for students.

This first section of the book also includes a chapter on classification, which (though a bit light on the subject of volcanic rocks) is written with a very healthy degree of scepticism. It includes the amusing statement, referring to the problem of the proliferation of names for extremely rare rock types that "the entire mass of rock that fits the specific definitions could be carried away by a small child". A former mentor of mine, a Scotsman, used to advise his students to dispose of small and embarrassingly inexplicable exposures by kicking a turf over them, but Barker's idea of taking a small child along as a field assistant might also be effective.

Despite many excellent features, however, this book is rather disappointing in that it fails to convey any sense of excitement. Though worthy, I doubt if it will win over readers who are not already committed to igneous geology. Also, the general lack of contrast in the photographs of rocks and somewhat uninspired choice of igneous phenomena in the field, will hardly help the author to catch the student's imagination.

One other serious flaw is the ex-

remely thin coverage of geochemistry. Like many other subjects, igneous geology has developed historically from an initial descriptive phase, through a phase in which the desire to understand processes was dominant, into the present applied stage in which the main point is to use igneous rocks to tell us about the way the Earth and the solar system actually work. Without a serious discussion of geochemistry and without coverage of additional topics such as meteorites and other aspects of the solar system, it is very difficult to present igneous rocks in their most interesting context. However, the addition of this material might have made the book unacceptably long.

K. G. Cox

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On the fingers of one hand

Numbers: their history and meaning by Graham Flegg
Deutsch, £14.95 and £8.95
ISBN 0 233 97282 X and 97516 0

Intended for a society much beset with problems over numeracy, this book analyses those problems into low, middle and high parts. The high part includes, for example, the astonishing inability of undergraduates to perform simple computations. The low part concerns those people - too numerous for the health of the economy but probably less numerous than either trades union officials or school teachers of mathematics like to think - who don't see why a three-week strike isn't worthwhile if the outcome is only a wage increase of five per cent.

Flegg's concern is not the lack, however, of the middle problem, that, despite all efforts, "an organized understanding of the various aspects of numbers is almost universally lacking". His attack on this position is forthright: his intention is to show "that numbers have been at the centre of man's awareness of his surroundings since well before any times of which we have surviving records... as society has grown and developed, it has never outgrown its dependence upon numbers". And he intends to do this as a book for the general reader.

He begins with the notion of counting and so distinguishes the two ideas of one-one correspondence (that is, cardinal numbers) and order. This leads him on to a description of finger counting in various parts of the world, together with other counting systems and their geographical distributions. The next step is notational: tallies and the long history of numerical notation from Egypt onwards.

The central chapter of the book, however, is that on "calculating with numbers", in which Flegg sounds a major note of concern: "The pocket calculator is already reducing our practice in calculation. Total reliance on artificial aids would be a major disaster. We cannot guarantee that such aids will invariably be to hand". To my mind this underestimates the seriousness of the situation, for the real trouble is that if we cannot calculate ourselves, we can have no idea of what the



Three pied cormorants, a species numerous in Australia and New Zealand. The photograph is taken from *Seabirds* by Eric Hosking (Croom Helm, £13.95).

calculator is doing, so that we will never have any idea of when we have pressed the wrong button, and what is worse, we can never discover how to use it in any new way.

Flegg deals extensively with the wide variety of methods (many now wrongly neglected) of setting out the basic arithmetical process in the Hindu-Arabic numerals, also discussing the abacus and counting-board. It is fair to comment that very few general readers and few mathematicians could read this chapter without being encouraged to improve substantially their abilities at calculation with large numbers. The later parts of this chapter deal with extracting the square root, the surprise being that the simple iterative method (that is, Newton's method) is traced back to Heron's *Metrica* of the first century AD, in which he extracted the cube root and proposed logarithms.

This is followed by historical accounts of machines, up to Charles Babbage, with a little on later developments, and the solution of numerical equations and numerical recreations.

In a chapter on "Thinking about numbers", Flegg sketches a number of cognate themes: the development of real and complex numbers and set theory as a foundation for arithmetic.

C. W. Kilmister

C. W. Kilmister is professor of mathematics at King's College London.

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by Alec Cairncross and Barry J. Eichengreen

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ISBN 0 631 13368 2

Until recently most countries operated a system of fixed exchange rates.

Changes in these rates were rare and usually unwelcome. The prospect of a forced alteration created periods of great drama, starting with tense debates and ending in crisis and rearmament. What was in part a narrow technical question calling for economic expertise and careful judgment, was also a political and moral issue; and decisions to change or not to change were generally taken on that basis.

Britain endured this traumatic experience on three occasions. The Cabinet decided not to devalue in 1930-31, in the spring of 1949 and in 1964, and each time was rapidly forced to reverse its decision. Inadequate reserves and hesitant ministers were no match for the enormous pressure of short-term capital flows moving against a currency under threat of devaluation. The consequences of these episodes - end of the related decision to go back onto the gold standard in 1925 at the pre-1914 parity of \$4.86 - are still with us. Their effects have entered political folklore: from "Nobody told us we could do that" in 1931, to "The pound in your pocket will not be devalued" in 1967. They figure prominently in any historical evaluation of crises involved; both the politicians: Churchill, Snowden, Cripps, Gaiskill, Wilson and Callaghan, and their advisers: from Keynes and Norman to Kaldor and Balogh. And the extent and timing of the devaluations, and their accompanying measures, have had significant effects on Britain's domestic economy and on its economic relations with its trading partners and those who invested in sterling - sometimes involuntarily.

A full length comparative study of these three occasions thus promises to be of considerable interest and value. Sir Alec Cairncross is responsible for the chapters on 1949 and 1967, and is exceptionally well qualified for the task. His earliest work (on Britain's pre-1914 home and foreign investment) displayed all the best features of the "new" economic history - quantification and the use of economic theory - some three decades before that mode of historical inquiry was notably invented on the other side of the Atlantic. Subsequently he moved to Whitehall, where he was ideally placed to observe and reflect on the debates over currency changes. In 1949 as economic adviser to the Board of Trade, in 1967 as head of the Government Economic Service. His co-author, Barry Eichengreen, who wrote the chapters on 1931, is one of the leading young American economic historians, and has specialized in the study of Britain's interwar trade and exchange rate policies.

The book opens with clear and helpful summaries of the changing economic models used to analyse exchange rates, and of the trends in Britain's international trade and payments since the 1920s. Then follow three substantive chapters, in each there is a first thorough examination of the forces leading to the particular devaluation; with an effective blend of historical narrative and economic and political analysis; then an evaluation of its macroeconomic consequences and of its implications for economic policy-making and performance. The important concluding chapter brings together the three separate stories, looking at their similarities and differences in background situation and policy response, and assessing the overall effectiveness of



Sir Alec Cairncross

devaluation. The style throughout is lucid and straightforward with an occasional sharp comment to enliven the text.

Of the three major chapters the one on 1949 is in many ways the freshest and most interesting. The records for 1931 have by now been open for more than twenty years, and a number of scholars have already published their accounts of the period. For 1967 it is too soon for access to the archives, and the broad outline of events will already be familiar to many readers; 1949 falls neatly in between. The Treasury records are open but their contents are still novel. The dust has settled: the participants have given us their memoirs and diaries, and left the field.

The analysis contains many fascinating items. In relation to the Cabinet it reveals the crucial role played by Hugh Gaiskill, with support from Douglas Jay. It was they who carried the debate forward and who made the final decision. Cripps acquiesced in the end but was basically opposed to devaluation on principle, on the grounds that it involved a surrender to market forces. Wilson also vacillated, and although a late convert was earlier said to be taking "refuge in ambiguity". The Prime Minister had "perhaps the oddest view of all as to what was involved" and "had difficulty in seeing any connexion between the balance of payments and the budget". This last point relates to a familiar issue which was at the centre of much of the internal debate in the spring and summer of 1949: the extent to which cuts in public expenditure were needed. Cairncross demonstrates the deep conflict and distrust between Labour Ministers, uniformly hostile to "everlasting cuts" (in 1949) and their advisers, some of whom supported devaluation but thought it would not work without such cuts, while others went even further and argued that with them it was unnecessary.

On the key economic issues it is shown that in the end the compelling factor which determined the devaluation was the lack of reserves, not a

careful balancing of the arguments of officials, still less by Ministers; that debate was dominated by short-term considerations "When it was argued that the decisive factors were long term"; that the major consideration should have been the relevance of the exchange rate to Britain's trade with dollar countries, not the overall balance; and that the decision was delayed well beyond the point of maximum advantage.

Finally Cairncross gives his verdict on the impact of the change in the rate from \$4.02 to \$2.80 - in nominal terms an extremely large reduction, but the effective (trade-weighted) drop was only 9 per cent. He argues that helped to reverse the critical drain of gold and dollars from the reserves improved Britain's competitive position without stimulating an inflationary spiral of wages and prices; and contributed to a better relationship between sterling and the dollar, an "indispensable element in postwar reconstruction".

In their overall evaluation the scores even more highly since long the gold standard helped to create conditions for the impressive economic recovery in the 1930s. In 1967, contrast, devaluation was based on have worked slowly and steadily. These three episodes were separated by intervals of exactly five years. Simple extrapolation suggests that the next stage in the drama should occur in the autumn of 1985. Under floating rates it cannot take precisely the same form; but there are many reasons apart from simple arithmetic, for thinking that before long we shall again be seeing a government vainly attempting to stem irresistible pressure for the next big devaluation more in the long history of the decline in the value of the pound against the dollar.

Charles Feinstein

Charles Feinstein is professor of economic and social history at the University of York.

are genuine disagreements between economists. However, many of the differences emphasized in this book are concerned with relatively well established points of analysis and are wondrous if the first-year undergraduate will be able to judge whether they are substantial.

Leaving this matter aside, however, the text is well written and offers a great deal of material. The first two chapters, which cover the real nature of the economy and include helpful exercises, are particularly good. However, the later chapters on monetary theory and the price level are more advanced and students may have difficulty with the treatment of aggregate demand and supply. For example, which introduces these different approaches and adds some complications as the interdependence of supply and demand and the presence of uncertainty.

Thus, the average first-year student will find parts of this text hard going. Second-year students will cope much better, but there are a number of popular texts directed at that market. The publisher's suggestion that this book be suitable for A level students should not be taken seriously.

David Shepherd

David Shepherd is lecturer in economics at Imperial College, London.

BOOKS

ECONOMICS

A choice of evils

Tax Policy-Making in the United Kingdom: a study of rationality, ideology and politics

by Ann Robinson and Cedric Sandford

Heinemann Educational, £15.00

ISBN 0 435 84784 8

The period between 1964 and 1975 was one of considerable tax innovation in the UK; many new taxes were created, and significant changes were made to existing taxes. The history of public finance shows that governments seem to have an infinite capacity for inventing new taxes for any new "emergency", although such inventive activity has been rare in peacetime. Furthermore, those changes which have occurred were made in the absence of any comprehensive review of the tax system, with the result that the system is now extremely complex, and full of contradictions.

Robinson and Sandford ask why so many new taxes were created, how the policies were made, and how effective were the processes of planning and decision making. Their study concentrates on eight detailed cases: capital gains tax, corporation tax (classical and imputation system), selective employment tax, value added tax, capital transfer tax, the tax-credit scheme and an annual wealth tax (although the last two never reached the statute book). Their answers to the three questions (why, how, and how well) are brief: for ill defined reasons of "equity" rather than revenue, not usually worked out by the parties before taking office; in a variety of ways, depending on the perceived aims of the tax; very badly.

The most useful part of this book is the middle section which traces the history of the introduction of the eight taxes, starting from the political parties, through the departments, the floor of the House of Commons and the select committees. The descriptive material here makes an interesting narrative, which will be useful to those studying the complex and varied process of law-making.

Unfortunately the analysis of the important issues raised in the book is of less value. The first chapter attempts to describe a framework of analysis. It distinguishes between economic and political decision-making "models", though none is adequately defined, and the so-called economic model is set up out of context as a caricature. Robinson and Sandford state that most previous commentators on the British tax system have fallen into the trap of using the model of "rational economic choice" (page 15), without

any supporting reference. There is a brief discussion of the important problem of clarifying the objectives of tax policy, but the authors never really get to grips with the difficulties. Decisions are later described as "political" or "ideological" as if this answered a question about objectives. Although the authors carried out many interviews, there is very little direct evidence in the book about what politicians wanted to do, and what they thought they were doing. When discussing the lack of coordination between wealth tax and capital transfer tax proposals, the statement that "we can only presume that these omissions reflected political decisions" (page 103) begs the question. Too often the reader is bidden to make questions which are then not even discussed.

One more surprising omission may be mentioned. There is no discussion of tax incidence - the difficult question of precisely who bears the "burden" of a tax - despite the fact that attitudes towards taxes depend crucially on views of their incidence. For example, are increases in value

added tax or corporation tax, or employers' national insurance contributions, fully "shifted" to consumers in the form of higher prices? This point is especially important when changes in the tax system are being considered. In the context of new taxes, tax capitalization is an important concept, though this is not mentioned either. Mortgage interest allowed either as a deduction or as a tax credit, for example, is often described as an "expenditure tax" which benefits the householder. But its effect may simply be to increase the capital value of the property when the tax is introduced, so that subsequent owners do not actually gain. It would be interesting to know the attitudes of those closely concerned with policy analysis to these issues.

The authors provide a depressing picture of tax policy making, but a wider perspective would perhaps lighten the gloom.

John Creedy

John Creedy is professor of economics at the University of Durham.

Money matters

Monetary Policy since 1971: conduct and performance

by Maximilian Hall

Macmillan, £6.95

ISBN 0 333 33141 9

Maximilian Hall's eminently sane and balanced book tells the inevitably complicated story of recent everyday monetary life in Britain as it really has been. There is no trace of that fairy-story quality revealed by so much recent macroeconomic writing. It describes in considerable detail the developments in monetary policy in the last decade, from the ambitions of competition and credit control, the spirit of which had collapsed by the end of 1973, to the medium-term financial strategy of 1980, which is subjected to careful, comprehensive and damning criticism in the final two chapters.

For many years there has been a need for a monetary textbook to update Sayers' great *Modern Banking* and to exercise good sense on the history of the introduction of the eight taxes, starting from the political parties, through the departments, the floor of the House of Commons and the select committees. The descriptive material here makes an interesting narrative, which will be useful to those studying the complex and varied process of law-making.

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John Creedy

John Creedy is professor of economics at the University of Durham.

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BOOKS

ECONOMICS

North Sea riches

Oil and the British Economy

By Stephen G. Hall and Fred Atkinson

Croom Helm, £12.95

ISBN 0 7099 0528 9

The development of the UK oil industry and self-sufficiency in oil since 1980 has coincided with the deepest economic recession since the 1930s. Those looking for scapegoats for de-industrialization and unemployment have pointed to oil as a prime cause.

The authors of this useful book firmly and rightly reject this view. How can a natural resource discovery, if it is managed properly, make a country poorer when it contributes directly to output, saves foreign exchange and provides tax revenue to government? The fact that the resource is a tradeable commodity and earns foreign exchange does not mean that the exchange rate must necessarily rise and that other sectors of the economy must contract.

It has been an unfortunate coincidence that Britain's greatest economic fortune in the twentieth century has coincided with a government committed to squeezing inflation out of the economic system at any price in the mystical belief that the dragon having been slain, a phoenix will arise from the ashes.

The book is not only about oil; it also represents an indictment of government economic policy since 1979, made more poignant by the fact that Sir Frederick Atkinson is a former chief economic advisor to the Treasury. Some measure of the mess that the economy is in is provided by calculating what the current scene would look like without oil contributing £10 billion to the balance of payments and £6 billion to tax revenue which has largely been used to reduce the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR).

The book is conveniently divided into three parts. The first documents the history of the exploitation and production of gas and oil, and also considers depletion policy. The second is concerned with the impact of oil on the rest of the economy and also considers the experience of other countries, while part three deals with the past and future management of the economy.

From the various estimates of the stock of reserves, from the habitual caution of the companies to the optimism of Professor Peter Odell, the authors take a likely figure of four thousand million tons which at current levels of consumption would last the country for approximately fifty years.

As far as depletion policy is concerned it is argued that at least 1-2 per cent of this reserve could be legitimately consumed every year, representing the likely income from the capital asset. As far as invested savings are concerned the oil may as well be left in the ground. The authors suggest therefore a depletion rate roughly equal to domestic consumption. This also guarantees security and is probably the rate required to induce the companies to produce.

On the effect of natural resource discoveries on the rest of the economy there is a simple discussion for students of the original Gregory model which predicted an absolute contraction of the tradeable goods sector. Gregory made it clear, however, that his model was a comparative static exercise and that if the economy is growing or investing overseas the decline in the tradeable goods sector need only be a relative and not an absolute one. It is a pity that Kay and Forsyth in their original analysis of the impact of North Sea oil on the authors also discuss did not make this crystal clear from the start.

There are many ways of dissipating foreign exchange gains from a newly discovered tradeable resource without the exchange rate rising.

None the less, the exchange rate did

rise, some would say catastrophically. How much was due to the pound as a petro-currency is difficult to say. Not much, in my view. Interest rates were also very high, and consider what the current account of the balance of payments and the exchange rate would have been had the economy been maintained on a positive growth path.

The authors launch strong attacks on monetarism, the government's medium term financial strategy and the public sector borrowing requirement. They confuse however when they keep repeating that inflation is a monetary phenomenon, as if this was an acceptable statement to non-monetarist economists. They note that both the National Institute of Economic and Social Research and the London Business School estimate that government policy is responsible for approximately 70 per cent of the fall in output since 1979.

Finally, they consider alternative policies performing simulations with the national institute model. A £5 billion reflation in any form would not stop unemployment from rising. They opt in the end for a reflationary package of public investment which would restore the PSBR/GDP ratio which has fallen virtually continuously since 1955. This would imply of course using North Sea oil as revenue to promote growth rather than to thwart it, although they are against an earmarked investment fund. This I think is a pity and would be my only disagreement with what otherwise well argued and well documented book, ideal for students.

A. P. Thirlwall

A. P. Thirlwall is professor of applied economics at the University of Kent.

Rescue operations

The IRC - an Experiment in Industrial Intervention: a History of the Industrial Reorganization Corporation

By Douglas Hague and Geoffrey Wilkinson

Allen & Unwin, £18.50

ISBN 0 04 338105 7

The Industrial Reorganisation Corporation (IRC) had an effective life of only three years from 1967 to 1970, but in that time it had a dramatic and controversial impact on British industry.

The IRC's supporters credit it with securing the GEC-AEI-English Electric mergers under Arnold Weinstock; its detractors point to the formation of British Leyland. The IRC also prevented Rank from taking over Cambridge Instruments, took an active part in the restructuring of the ball bearing and machine tool industries, and was involved in rescue operations for Rolls-Royce, Cammell Laird and several other companies. The decision to abolish it was described by the *Sunday Times* as "sheer wanton murder".

Douglas Hague and Geoffrey Wilkinson have produced the first comprehensive account of the IRC's activities. It is a first-class piece of work: comprehensive, well-informed, systematically organized, clearly written, and accompanied by thoughtful and perceptive comments. It will be invaluable for politicians, civil servants, businessmen and economists concerned with UK industrial policy, but at the same time the book is quite accessible to the general reader.

The first part of the book traces the IRC's origins in the ideas of the industrialist B. R. Cant, Tony Benn's Ministry of Technology, and Labour Party economists. The aim was to rationalize and restructure British industry into larger, more efficient units. The IRC was also able to establish or develop any industrial enterprise if requested to do so by the Secretary of State. Broadly speaking, then, the IRC's tasks were to promote mergers and facilitate rescue operations. Part two of the book examines six of the major mergers in which the IRC participated. Part three discusses four cases of rescue and restoration. In both activities the IRC's record is one of mixed success. The final chapter is a review and appraisal of the IRC's record and importance.

Hague and Wilkinson are sceptical about the IRC's first duty. "Despite considerable success," the IRC met

gers have not reversed the relative decline in the performance of UK manufacturing industry. Nor could they have been expected to do so. Indeed, the IRC gradually came to devote a greater part of its efforts to stimulating investment rather than promoting mergers," and saw "no mous potential in this 'development bank' role". The authors share this enthusiasm, concluding that there is a clear case for a small, very flexible and as far as possible, apolitical institution to act as a go-between to develop an expertise in this difficult area linking government and industry" (page 246).

The point about mergers is well taken. The White Paper claimed that "There is no evidence that we can rely on market forces alone to produce the necessary structural changes at the pace required." This underestimates both the systematic tendency of the market process to transfer control of resources to those demonstrating greatest ability to persuade and meet consumers' needs (by, for example, the choice of efficient organizational structures), and also the difficulty of supplanting or improving upon this market process by deliberate intervention. In so far as the IRC merely smoothed the way within government, by ensuring that there would be no reference to the Monopolies Commission (for example, the GEC and Leyland mergers), it would seem more appropriate to reconsider the existing procedure for appointing and referring potential mergers.

Whether there is a stronger case for a development bank is more debatable. Why are existing merchant banks inadequate to fill this role? Presumably, because there are no commercial actions to be undertaken for "social" reasons. But this can scarcely be apolitical, as witness the government's request to rescue Cammell Laird despite the decision of the Shipbuilding Industries Board not to become involved.

What seems to be required is a prior statement of "the public interest", and specifically the government's obligations in respect of employment. This in turn requires an analysis of the legitimacy of "proper rights in jobs". The effectiveness of an IRC-type institution can then be appraised against alternative methods of fulfilling these obligations (such as redundancy schemes). Such issues lie beyond the scope of this book, but Hague and Wilkinson's book will illuminate all future discussions in this area.

S. C. Littlechild

S. C. Littlechild is professor of commerce and head of the department of industrial economics and business studies at the University of Birmingham.



BOOKS

ECONOMICS

Market share

Folded, Spindled, and Mutilated:

economic analysis and US v IBM

By Franklin M. Fisher, John J. McGowan and Joan E. Greenwood

MIT Press, £22.80

ISBN 0 262 06086 8

In January 1969 the US antitrust authorities who had been investigating IBM since 1967, initiated proceedings against the company under the Sherman Act. The proceedings were abruptly terminated as "without merit" in January 1982. This book is an account of the defence case provided for IBM by the authors. They openly admit that they are participants in a legal case; and while this must constantly be borne in mind by the reader, it has not seriously marred the book, which is extremely valuable in a number of ways.

First, it clearly demonstrates the value of industry studies. In particular chapter four on market share shows that there really is no substitute for a detailed knowledge of an industry. Second, it shows conclusively the dangers of using market share as a measure of monopoly power and demonstrates the arbitrary use to which definition of the market can be put. Third, the book shows the totally misleading nature of the perfectly competitive model in a dynamic world, and illustrates the yawning gap between theory and the existing but intractable real world.

Fourth, and most importantly, it points the fact that the essence of competition is constraints on behaviour. Only if a firm is not constrained by competition from raising price or supplying inferior products is there monopoly power. The authors introduce the concepts of "demand substitution" (ie the extent to which consumers can substitute) and "supply substitution" (ie the extent to which suppliers can supply competing products), applying these to the IBM case.

The focus on constraints helps to bring out the distinguishing nature of markets for producers' goods. It has been recognized since the literature which followed Chamberlin's seminal contribution that the idea of "irrational consumer preferences" was even

weaker than usual where a producer was dealing with professional buyers. But this insight has been frequently neglected since the 1930s and this book helps to make it clear. In chapter seven the authors show how the facile use of static equilibrium models, coupled with accounting data, can produce nonsensical identification of monopoly profit. This is a devastating analysis which deserves to be very widely read, especially by those who conduct this kind of research.

But the book does have a number of drawbacks. Perhaps understandably the authors do not make much effort to do justice to alternative views. For instance, IBM ended its practice of full-line supply ("bundling") after the start of antitrust investigation, and forced leasing was only abandoned as a result of an earlier antitrust action.

Both these points are mentioned in the book, but it is all again the extent to which IBM has been prepared to allow "plug compatibility" may depend upon the vigour with which antitrust is being pursued at the time; and while the erection by IBM of barriers to "reverse engineering" (copying) by other firms is both understandable and legitimate, new developments in this field (particularly microcoding) may undermine the freedom of entry which Fisher et al believe to exist. In the discussion of barriers to entry (chapter six) the authors underestimate the importance of patents, imperfect access to capital, and scarce resource control (including control of a pool of skilled labour).

The work of earlier writers is ignored to the point where the general economic discussions (as distinct from the detailed discussions of IBM) acquire, I am sure accidentally, a spurious air of originality. Thus in dealing with barriers to entry even Bain is mentioned at only one point. But discussion of this concept (and much else relevant to the book, such as the "conditional" of monopoly) goes back at least to Marshall. In downplaying the importance of capital requirement as an entry barrier, the authors refer to entry by already established firms - but P.W.S. Andrews figures nowhere in the account. Chamberlin and Schumpeter merit not even one reference despite all the valuable material concerning product competition and innovation.

Despite these faults this is a book which should be read by everyone interested in competition policy. Even busy civil servants should at least have time to read chapter nine with its checklist for policymakers contemplating antitrust action.

D. P. O'Brien

D. P. O'Brien is professor of economics at the University of Durham.

Stimulus to argument

Controversies in Macroeconomics

(second edition)

By K. A. Chrysalis

Philip Allan, £10.00 and £4.95

ISBN 0 85003 053 9 and 1470

Controversies in macroeconomics influence policy; one cannot afford to view the spectacle of economists in disagreement with the detached amusement it deserves. To a great degree, however, Alice Chrysalis manages to give a dispassionate account of current rival theories - Keynesian, monetarist and new classical - against the background of what she calls textbook models of the economy.

A number of current issues are then examined from the three rival points of view: the balance of payments and exchange rates, the conjunction of inflation and unemployment, the "crowding-out" potential of government expenditure, business cycles and supply shocks - namely oil.

Those who know the first edition of this book will observe that there have been considerable changes in focus. The unsuccessful chapter on foreign exchange models has been dropped along with subsequent reference to evidence that the "crowding out" results from the Treasury model have been refuted. This edition is thus more straightforwardly theoretical and more content in its approach.

New classical economics has been introduced at the expense of new Keynesianism, which may partly explain

the change of title: the first edition was called *Controversies in British Macroeconomics*. The applications, if not the analysis, remain entirely British, however.

The exposition is lucid and the author makes his personal positions on the applied issues clear. To him the exchange-rate regime is a critical issue, and he is at the forefront of growth in Britain in the 1970s to the effect of "the policy swings that floating permits", the overvalued exchange rate in 1979-80 and repercussions of fluctuations in US monetary policy. The provocative style of the first edition has been toned down, but the provocative conclusions have been retained.

While the concluding chapter, now called "Macroeconomics in the 1980s", is admirable as a stimulus to further argument, it is rather a pity that the content of the last chapter of the first edition has been dropped. That chapter, called "The Truth", perhaps disappointed too many hopeful but humourless students. Its message, that economic theories seldom go out of fashion because they are wrong but rather because they lose their relevance as conditions change, is a point that demands to be made in any book contrasting rival theories. I am also dismayed that Dr Chrysalis has so fully adopted both the labour-market orientation in modelling supply and the "cost-push" interpretation of macroeconomics. Despite superficial differences in the theories he surveys, they are all, as apparently Dr Chrysalis now is himself, neoclassical.

Victoria Chick

Victoria Chick is lecturer in political economy at the University of College London.

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BOOKS

ECONOMICS

Crisis in the East

The Planned Economies of Eastern Europe

by Alan H. Smith

Croom Helm, £16.95

ISBN 0 7099 2326 0

It is easy enough, nowadays, to find newspaper articles referring to the crisis facing Eastern Europe, though it is less easy to find a clear explanation of its origins and nature. To construct an explanation, we need to know about the main characteristics of the Eastern European planning systems and their likely responses to internal and external strains. The particular strains that are of interest are the internal ones resulting from struggles over the appropriate development strategy, and the more recent external ones giving rise to convertible currency payments problems.

Of course, there remain some important differences between the nations of Eastern Europe in their resource endowments, their relationship with the Soviet Union and in their internal politics (and hence also in their economic policies and performance) so any attempt to write about the region as a whole is inevitably a risky undertaking; a lot of important detail pertaining to the individual countries is bound to be lost. Nevertheless, Alan Smith has

made a very worthwhile attempt to treat Eastern Europe as a whole and by covering some unusual topics he has produced a very useful book.

Part one, the first four chapters, deals with the origins and operation of central planning. Smith emphasizes that initially very high growth rates generally declined after the plans of the early 1950s, while surplus labour, mainly transferring out of agriculture, was absorbed successfully in other expanding sectors. Eventually, it became clear that further growth would depend on the acquisition of new or improved technology, together with improvements in economic organization.

The last chapter of part one discusses organizational impediments to innovation such as the usual separation of research and development institutes from productive enterprises and the fact that innovation is likely to interrupt current production and hence poses a threat to managerial bonuses. By the mid-1960s the need for economic reform was widely accepted, but there was little consensus on how to proceed. Only Hungary introduced radical reforms that eliminated part of the cumbersome 1950s planning apparatus, while elsewhere the main emphasis was on seeking to improve the centralized model.

The three chapters of part two are concerned with consumer equilibrium, macroeconomic equilibrium and the control of inflation. It is well known that the inflexibilities of planning systems result in surpluses of some goods and shortages of others. What is far less clear is whether it is correct to characterize the planned economies as suffering from generalized excess demand, or whether the basic problem is simply that relative prices are wrong. The issue is germane to the question of inflation in Eastern Europe. Evidence appears to

be very mixed, though high savings balances held by the population in some countries suggest that open inflation is being repressed by direct controls over prices.

Part three examines the international economic situation in Eastern Europe, outlining the main institutions concerned with trade, and the unsuccessful efforts of Comecon to progress towards economic integration in the region. In the early 1970s countries such as Poland, lacking support for internal reforms and expectations about rising living standards, adopted an ambitious development strategy of import-led growth. The aim was to raise living standards sharply, with the help of imported technology and equipment. The initial costs to be repaid later by means of increased hard currency exports. In practice, the combination of the energy crisis, western recession and poor investment choices led to the East European crisis referred to at the start of this review. The crisis is most severe in Poland, but other countries are still facing serious difficulties. Paradoxically, reforms are most needed just as the economic climate is least conducive to them.

Overall, I found Smith's account and analysis of these problems extremely interesting. At times it is rather hard to decide whether points are general ones, or just applicable to one or two countries. In addition, it would have been useful for a book to close with a chapter summarizing the present economic position of Eastern Europe and suggesting some feasible ways of summing up the crisis.

Paul Hare

Dr Hare is reader in economics at the University of Stirling.



and understate this book's positive achievements. It will be read with pleasure and interest.

Peter Sinclair

Peter Sinclair is fellow and tutor in economics at Brasenose College, Oxford.

The publication of volumes XI and XII of *The Collected Writings of John Maynard Keynes* means that the last of his now almost complete collected works remains to be published. These two volumes are devoted to Keynes's economic articles and the correspondence relating to them (Macmillan, £22.00 each volume).

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The First Industrial Nation: an economic history of Britain 1700-1914

(second edition)

by Peter Mathias

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ISBN 0 416 33290 0 and 33300 1

Since its first appearance in 1969 *The First Industrial Nation* has been widely recognized as the premier textbook on modern British economic history. Its value to students has been immense in unfolding the complicated story of Britain's economic miracle with calm, unflinching authority.

It is well organized, always coherent and it enables the reader to maintain a clear sense of chronology even when, as it must, it ranges across the decades in pursuit of trade cycles, investment rates and demographic change. Though students are reluctant to use it in their essays, the book also provides them with an imposing arsenal of statistical appendices on trade, population, manufacturing and agricultural output. The uncluttered sanity of the synthesis is just sufficiently enlivened by the unusual example or the telling anecdote to guard against any charge of blandness. The whole is a model of the textbook writer's art.

A second edition was, therefore, to be expected. In introducing it, Professor Mathias asserts that, while he has incorporated some new research, he has tried to "maintain the same structure and family resemblance to the text of 1969". He certainly succeeds. Every chapter bears the same title as before: even the subdivisions of those chapters are identically titled. The 39 statistical tables of the appendix, which draw heavily on the work of B.R. Mitchell and Phyllis Deane, are retained as before save for minor corrections and the completion (the bibulous will be gratified to learn) of beer consumption estimates for the period 1830-80, omitted from the previous edition in the absence of excise figures.

Professor Mathias also fastidiously avoids unnecessary tinkering with the text. A new adjective is selected here, a qualifying sentence (on the differential operation of land tax in the regions, say, or on investment rates as a proportion of gross national product) added at the end of a paragraph there. More substantial revisions may, of course, be found. The most important of these concern the so-called great depression period where Mathias now provides a valuable new table on UK growth rates from 1856 to 1937 based on the work of Matthews, Feinstein and Odling-Smee. He says grudgingly that before both on declining manpower productivity rates from the 1870s and on lower British wage costs than those of the USA as a disincentive to investment in new machinery during the crucial period of retardation. Similarly, the demographic sections now bear the imprint of the massive researches of Wrigley, Schofield and the Cambridge Group for the Study of Population and Social Structure. G.R. Hawley's concept of "social savings" via railway development is discussed in a new, sceptical paragraph, while recent work on foreign trade values and capital exports has provoked some rethinking. Despite these, the book's broad conclusions, like its overall structure, remain unaltered.

Having anticipated more radical changes, I experienced initial dissatisfaction that they had not been made. Surely the work of McCloskey, Martin and Turner on nineteenth-century urban development was important enough to merit more specific treatment? The economic importance of the growth of organized leisure, much sketched during the 1970s, receives no new mention here, that I could detect. Did not Mathias consider, on reflection, that his original treatment of the importance of agriculture had been on the meagre side? Apparently not.

On consideration of this revised text, however, most of my doubts evaporated. The book continues to work marvelously well as a textbook. Mathias, despite my misgivings, was surely right to avoid making the kind of wholesale changes which risked creating a half-baked new volume rather than a modestly changed version of one which has amply proved its value. On a deeper level, too, the author has been shrewd. The 1970s provided a decade of consolidation for the discipline of economic history. Gaps have been filled; much new regional research has been put in train. But, as yet and with the partial exception of demography, no fundamental reappraisal of the nature of British economic development is required to replace the findings of the 1960s. Certainly the fruits of the application of econometric analysis to history have been much more meagre than some once predicted. Perhaps more may be expected from the reintegration of work by social and economic historians since the former can now count while the latter increasingly emphasize what Professor Mathias calls "the human dimension".

If so, it makes the recent decision to separate the disciplines for the purposes of SSRC research funding the more anachronistic, perplexing and potentially damaging.

However this may be, Professor Mathias's decision not to tinker moves almost certainly the right one. *The First Industrial Nation* will establish itself for the 1980s, as the 1970s, as the Liverpool among textbooks in its field: durable, dependable, virtually unbeatable on home ground and possessed of a sufficiently tested method to be proof against embarrassment on unfamiliar territory. If students may get more transient fun from the Aston Villas or the Tottenham Hotspurs on their reading lists, they will surely know where to turn when (to employ a parlance many of them will recognize) they "want the right result".

Eric J. Evans

Dr Evans is senior lecturer in history at the University of Lancaster.

Japanese managers

Japan's Reluctant Multinationals:

Japanese management at home and abroad

by Malcolm Trevor

Frances Pinter, £16.50

ISBN 0 86187 336 X

Although Japanese products from calculators and watches to cars have become part of everyday life in Britain, much less is known about the methods and operations of their makers. Do they have a distinctive pattern of management associated with economic success? Is it transplantable to their operations overseas? Are there likely to be lessons to be learned by British companies dispirited by relatively poor economic performance?

A good start on answers to these questions can be made with Dr Trevor's study of *Japan's Reluctant Multinationals*. Dr Trevor has a decade of working experience with Japanese companies and more recent involvement in research programmes at the London School of Economics. He does not offer either purely economic or purely cultural explanations of Japanese management success, but emphasizes that rational managers with long-term strategies can draw on a variety of social institutions and cultural patterns as organizational resources. For example induction and on-the-job training are that much easier in a society where students have long been encouraged to see themselves as group members and where the difficult, blurred, open-ended model of the teacher-pupil relation means that any senior will feel the right to tell any junior what is necessary - and any junior feel obliged to listen.

Having set out his perspective in chapter one, Dr Trevor outlines a programme of studies which included a case study of a major trading company in the City of London, a questionnaire study, an interview study with managers (personnel, general, and plant) in 39 companies, and a series of case studies in two banks, two manufacturing companies and a trading company. Unfortunately the desire to preserve confidentiality means that the author is rarely able to lay out direct and systematic comparison across companies.

Before proceeding to an account of this research, Dr Trevor reviews the literature on Japanese management in Japan and illustrates the high degree of support which Japanese management enjoys in Japan from a variety of social institutions from government and the educational system to trade unions. Dr Trevor dislikes the portmanteau term "management system" and prefers to look at the various components of recruitment, pay, promotion and seniority as management systems and to argue that in the Japanese case managers strive consciously to weld these components into a functionally integrated control system. Comparing Britain and Japan, he says there is relatively little opposition to management control in Japan, "as a generalization it can be asserted that unions in the Japanese case, largely because of management's own efforts, do not pose such a threat to managerial control". This conclusion is

crucial to the book's main concern, for Japanese multinationals are reluctant to leave such a safe supportive environment and are only prodded overseas by fear of exclusion from world markets on which they depend.

Approximately half of the book deals with Japanese management in the UK. For those preoccupied by Japanese technology it will come as a surprise that Japanese commercial companies from banks to trading companies are both more numerous and more significant for employment than manufacturing companies in the UK. Further, given the emphasis on management control and the widespread adverse comments on British industrial relations it might seem surprising that Japanese companies have experienced little difficulty with blue collar workers, and that problems have arisen mainly with white collar staff management. The potential for conflict with British white collar staff lies in blocked career mobility as companies emphasize Japanese head office control, use expatriates in key positions, and adopt training practices which are organization and task-oriented rather than local, individual and career-centred.

Trevor's discussion of the formal and informal processes in decision-making, the methods of consensus building through consultation, and the implications of an arms length relationship for expatriates and local staff are particularly interesting. "The undefined character of the consensus reflects the informal systems. These are both empirically hard for local staff to grasp and conceptually difficult for theorists who search for an intellectual framework which is lacking". (p.157) Here one longed for an extended study of decision-making rather than the brief reports of claims and quotes from various studies. Nevertheless, Dr Trevor offers a helpful review and a convincing account of why Japanese multinationals are not multinationals in the sense that American or Dutch companies are multinationals. Given the emphasis on Japanese head office control, the depth of international recession, the fund of good will available to them in Britain and the validation of success, the companies are unlikely to change radically. Yet there is something which the Japanese can learn from this study: there is ample scope for improvement in orientation training for expatriates and management systems. Their diffidence in introducing Japanese methods and reluctance to come to grips with British methods can result in ad hoc compromises which fail to get the benefits of either Japanese or local practices.

Kevin McCormick

Dr McCormick is lecturer in sociology in the school of social sciences in the University of Sussex.

South-South Strategy, edited by Alistair Gauthier, is published by the Third World Foundation for Social and Economic Studies at £3.95. It brings together a collection of articles first published in *Third World Quarterly* on the enduring aspects of North-South relations. Contributors include Julius Nyerere, Amil Jamal, Amartya Sen and Ali Mazrui.

The Economic Consequences of Mrs Thatcher is a selection of speeches made by Lord Kaldor in the House of Lords between 1979 and 1982. Edited by Nick Butler, the book is published by Duckworth at £2.95.

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September 1983, 484 pages; £22.50 cloth (£8.95 paperback)

THE MIT PRESS

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BOOKS

ECONOMICS

**Reformist
radicals**

Contemporary Problems of Economic
Policy: essays from the CLARE
Group

edited by R. C. O. Matthews and
J. R. Sargent

Methuen, £3.95

ISBN 0 416 348201 3

At a time when economic debate often appears to be polarized between two extremes, it is reassuring to learn that the voice of moderation is alive and well. In economic affairs the CLARE group (a group of prominent economists who first met in Cambridge in 1976) represents such a voice. In recent years it has consistently advocated a reformist but in many ways more radical economic policy than that adopted by the present government or proposed by the main opposition.

The 13 essays in this volume were originally published over the period 1977 to 1982 in the *Midland Bank Review*, although one or two contain a postscript which takes account of more recent developments. They represent the views of a distinguished group of economists on a range of macroeconomic issues. The 16 contributors comprise an interesting blend of some of the most able of the younger economists working in Britain today, together with several of the most experienced and senior members of the economics profession. They have produced here an informative, enlightened and challenging set of proposals for the reform of economic policy, which deserves a wide audience.

In their introduction summarizing the central issues of the book the editors detail the arguments for and against reform. While opposing the "do nothing" emphasis in the present government's rhetoric, they do so from a perspective that acknowledges the importance of markets. They do not advocate throwing out the neo-classical baby with its bathwater, but rather propose reform to ensure that in some areas the market works more efficiently, while in others, some of its least acceptable consequences are mitigated. In this, like many other economists working in Britain today, they owe something to monetarism, for it was monetarism that reminded us that we neglect market outcomes at our peril.

Part one, on macroeconomic problems and policies, contains an instructive set of essays which captures the developing views of the group. In these they advocate measured refutation, arguing persuasively that such a policy is unlikely to be frustrated by supply constraints or the cost of borrowing as many have claimed. However, they recognize that refutation could lead to further inflation if development is not unlikely, given the nature of the wage bargaining system. Indeed, they acknowledge that this system has already produced some classical unemployment, but instead of advocating its reform, they opt for appeasement and suggest protecting real wages via cuts in value added tax. This retreat is regrettable, but perhaps inevitable, for confronting the issue would involve both a considerable reduction in the role and power of trade unions, and substantial changes in the way that constitutes a fair wage on the part of both workers and employers.

Of the three parts of the book, the second, on manufacturing and industrial policy, is the least instructive. With the exception of the paper by Sargent, the rest contains little that is new and the last has not been entirely in favour of detail and to greater effect elsewhere. Moreover, it reflects the group's rather ambivalent preoccupation with the fate of manufacturing industry in Britain. It might have been more enlightening if they employed their considerable skills to analyse the productivity and

output performance of the public and service sectors.

If part two is disappointing, part three compensates with original and stimulating analysis of specific problems. In particular, two accessible and well argued essays highlight the economic inefficiencies and income distortions that arise in important areas of social policy. First, Mervyn King and A. J. Atkinson analyse the tax treatment of housing, and reveal that the enormous public subsidies in this area, amounting to perhaps £5.5bn in 1978, are haphazard and ineffective. The subsidies encourage over-investment in housing, at the expense of other productive activities, and vary with income in a way which has no clear economic or social rationale. Second, Atkinson, but now with John Flemming, analyses the effect of unemployment and social security payments on incentives to work. In a postscript they note that two of the proposals contained

in their original article have been adopted and that, partly as a result of this, the number of households better off out of work is now negligible. However, a further consequence of developments over the period has been that many more families in work find themselves in the poverty trap, facing effective marginal tax rates that, had they occurred at the top of the income range, would have evoked an instant response from this government.

Well written and persuasively argued, these essays will appeal to practising economists and interested laymen alike and it is only to be hoped that they have some impact on policy.

R. F. Elliott

R. F. Elliott is senior lecturer in the department of political economy, University of Aberdeen.

**European
agnostics**

The Common Market: ten years after

edited by C. D. Cohen

Philip Allan, £14.00 and £6.95

ISBN 0 86003 055 5 and 1500

These essays reflect the aftermath of excessive expectations on the part of pro-marketisers. Joining the EEC has clearly not reduced Britain's deep-seated economic problems; the "free ride" argument used by politicians was anyway always embarrassing to pro-European economists. Moreover, having declined to participate in the formation of the community at a time when it could have influenced policy, the UK joined when a questionable agricultural and financial policy had already been adopted, but its worst effects were yet to become apparent.

In an engagingly vituperative introduction, the editor leaves few economists or politicians unscathed. (He is especially critical of the Chicago school of free market economists as represented by Harry Johnson and Milton Friedman, and of Mr Edward Heath.) However, after examining the evidence, including the notorious Common Agricultural Policy, he does not side unambiguously with the anti-marketisers concluding that the effect of all the economic policies considered is trivial in relation to national income, and that wider political issues should determine national policy. But his discussion of these issues is too brief. Echoing de Gaulle he reminds us that the EEC is not Europe, which "is of importance for those whose vision of Europe stretches from the Atlantic to the Urals." Perhaps, but did de Gaulle's vision ever make much political sense? And if it is claimed that it does, we should be told more about the implications for policy.

Geoffrey Shepherd looks at the British manufacturing industry, and concludes that the EEC has not made much difference: British industry has declined regardless. This is a scholarly review of scholarly work, and his "agnostic" conclusion might seem (incorrectly) to the non-specialist to be unhelpful. If Shepherd had reviewed some of the more political views—such as the calculation by a white-collar trade union that the whole of British unemployment could be attributed to EEC membership—it might have been clearer that his conclusions do provide useful indications of feasible policy options.

On the subject of high technology Keith Pavitt finds that EEC membership as such has not done much to dynamize British industry but that there have been some promising developments, as well as disappointments, at the community level. He argues, in passing, that a protectionist policy for Britain would make matters worse. The chapter, 'Agriculture: how significant a burden?', reviews some familiar issues, but does not go into much detail on the current situation. On the effect of the CAP on retail prices, for example, it lists two figures, drawn from various articles published between 1967 and 1977, but does not attempt to calculate a current figure (or figures, depending on the alternative envisaged).

Geoffrey Denton contributes a thorough review of taxation and the community budget, outlining the prob-

lems, especially for Britain, of the present system and the various proposed alternatives. Malcolm Crawford gives a clear account of the European monetary system, although his argument that Britain has adopted an "exchange rate target", as an alternative to the European system, may exaggerate the coherence of current British economic policy. The editor concludes with a chapter on growth, stability and employment, indicating that while there has not been much at all three in recent years, EEC membership can hardly be blamed.

While this symposium contains useful material for teachers, it may disappoint practical men seeking an analysis of what British policy should be. None of the authors believes in the protectionist economic policy preferred by the Labour Party, but their own views on policy are not always spelt out. However, if the main impression left by this symposium is of uncertainty and disillusion, it is not only too well the situation in the EEC.

Graham Hallett

Dr Hallett is senior lecturer in economics at the University College of Wales, Cardiff.

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**Text for
the 80s**

An Introduction to Positive Economics,
sixth edition

by R.G. Lipsey

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16.50 and

£8.95

ISBN 0 297 78264 9 and 78265 7

An Introduction to the UK Economy: a
companion for Positive Economics

by Colin Harbury and R.G. Lipsey

Pitman, £4.95

ISBN 0 273 01957 0

The most significant changes contained in the sixth edition of *An Introduction to Positive Economics* occur in Professor Lipsey's treatment of macroeconomics. Previous editions dealt with equilibrium in the goods market on the assumption that income was the sole variable in the model. Money was discussed in isolation and no attempt was made to integrate the monetary and real sectors of the economy.

This new edition explores the interactions between these two sectors using the familiar IS-LM model. The aggregate demand function is then derived from this model and is combined with the aggregate supply function to analyse the determination of income assuming a variable price level. This enables the effects of supply and demand shocks to the system to be analysed separately. New chapters on monetary and fiscal policy deal with the comparative statics of shocks, within the IS-LM framework, that cause once-and-for-all changes in the price level, national income and the interest rate. The revised chapter on continuous rises in the price level also uses the same model to study the process.

In contrast to previous editions Lipsey's treatment of macroeconomics is both algebraic and geometrical. Although all the macroeconomic relationships are expressed in linear form and the mathematics involved does not go beyond the solution of simple simultaneous equations in two variables, some of the algebra is likely to appear formidable to the student studying macroeconomics for the first time. The standard goods market model found in previous editions is de-

veloped rapidly to include the government sector and foreign trade and the multipliers for these two, three and four-sector models are derived algebraically. For those students who feel uneasy with algebra there is a brief appendix which gives a more detailed geometric derivation of the IS-LM model using the four-quadrant diagram approach.

A highly desirable improvement is the total integration of the open economy into the models considered. Previous editions dealt with the international economy in isolation and almost as an afterthought. At the microeconomic level, the section on elementary price theory contains a chapter which uses production possibility boundaries to illustrate the gains from trade and demand and supply models to determine exchange rates. The complications which arise due to the openness of an economy are analysed throughout the macroeconomic sections. A new chapter on macroeconomic policy considers expenditure-changing and expenditure-switching policies to achieve the objectives of internal and external balance.

This edition also emphasizes the microeconomic underpinnings of macroeconomic models. New sections on short-run price-output decisions of oligopolistic firms and implicit contract theory provide the product-market and factor-market underpinnings respectively for the aggregate supply curve which follows. Another welcome feature is the expanded treatment of oligopoly which is probably the dominant form of market structure outside of agriculture and industrial materials.

The IS-LM model which forms the basis of the macroeconomics presented here can be described as neo-Keynesian and may not be acceptable to some monetarists. Lipsey's contention is that

since traditional monetarists have so far failed to provide a model that is fundamentally different this one comprehends both Keynesianism and monetarism. He rejects the neo-classical market clearing model with rationally formed expectations on the grounds that it does not describe the real-world behaviour of markets. Although the IS-LM model developed in this edition can be criticized for its naivety and crudity, it nevertheless provides a prototype version of the demand side of the economy which is used very frequently in macroeconomic models.

This sixth edition will provide students with a textbook which is highly relevant to the 1980s and which could be used throughout their undergraduate years. Many of the macroeconomic chapters, however, are likely to present a very real challenge to the average first-year student.

An Introduction to the UK Economy is an extremely readable, descriptive outline of the economy's institutions and functions. It is intended to complement *An Introduction to Positive Economics* by providing the factual and institutional background which Harbury and Lipsey consider necessary for understanding the relevance of economic theory. The topics covered include the organization of business activity, the structure of British industry, distribution, international trade and development, government and resource allocation, national income and balance of payments, money and banking and growth and stabilization policy.

J.F. Bradley

J.F. Bradley is lecturer in economics at the Queen's University of Belfast.

**Imposing
efficiency
criteria**

Microeconomic Efficiency and

Macroeconomic Performance

edited by David Shepherd, Jeremy

Turk, Andrew Silbertson

Philip Allan, £13.95

ISBN 0 86003 049 0

It is no longer quite so comforting to seek solace in the "quality of life" when considering Britain's economic performance. For while it is true, as Brian Reddaway argues, that outcomes have been fairly favourable over the longer term surely the past decade has witnessed a sharp deterioration. One would like to believe, pace Reddaway, that the problem is mainly one of the level of pay but on the evidence marshalled here it is difficult to believe that this is so. Cultural attitudes, institutional structures and public policies have all contributed to both relative and increasingly absolute economic failure.

Were these outcomes inevitable? This book provides interesting insights into many of these issues and is thus valuable as a contribution to the debate on policy, as well as a useful summary of present knowledge. Whether it succeeds in integrating macro and micro analysis is quite another matter. Unfortunately it is still true that we know too little about the basic functioning of the economic system and indeed one of the things we ought to be doing, as the French are currently, is putting substantial resources into applied microeconomics. Poor macro policy, of which Britain has had more than its fair share, has its origins in failures of understanding and even of interest in the microeconomic foundations of the system.

What these essays do is to develop and then apply to the conduct of policy in its varied aspects a complex notion of efficiency, including therefore many of these basic axioms of welfare economics. Theoretical economics thus provides the essential framework for assessment, both of the aims of policy and of its outcomes, and as such is often found wanting except under highly restrictive conditions. Even so standard concepts of efficiency and of welfare economics when applied to policies and outcomes are very enlightening.

The two opening chapters deal with efficiency at the firm level. There is repetition here and elsewhere in definitional aspects of the problem, but also interesting observations. McGuinness provides a standard criticism of markets (and pro-market policies) and makes the often forgotten point that capitalist industrial policies require similar values in the populations affected for their success. For Silbertson it is the quality of leadership which matters, and this is much more crucial for firm growth, so he argues, than the macroeconomic environment.

Three further papers apply efficiency criteria to conventionally assumed areas of policy failure. Turk denies the sense in trying to impose simple notions of efficiency to the highly complex and varied institutions of the labour market. Since such institutions serve multiple ends it follows that policies aimed solely at raising efficiency are unlikely to succeed. Nicholas Stern reviews the literature on efficient tax and so highlights the strengths and weaknesses of economics—good at static analysis applied to competitive markets, but less useful for designing a tax structure suitable for generating growth and development. Shepherd shows that the arguments that excessive levels of public expenditure and public sector borrowing requirement financing are central to the efficiency problem is largely unproven.

Rounding off the core of the book Revell provides an excellent survey of the financial system and convincingly identifies the existence of both structural and allocative inefficiency. Such distortions have been increased in recent years; in his view, by policies which rely on monetary targeting. And Lyons, in a chapter on trade, argues for openness of economic systems thus confirming with some caveats the standard doctrine. But he does, rightly, make the other fundamental observation that Britain's external problems are a symptom of economic inefficiency and not their cause.

Altogether a useful set of essays which raise as many questions as they answer. Some lighter editing would have eliminated overlaps; and much more integration of micro and macro aspects of policy was really required. Is it fair to leave it to the reader to make so many of these critical connections?

C. D. Cohen

C. D. Cohen is reader in economics at the University of Sussex.

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SCIENCE OF
MATERIALS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for a Lectureship or Senior Lectureship in Metallurgy and Science of Materials in the Department of Metallurgy and Science of Materials, University of Oxford, Oxford, England. The appointee will be expected to teach and to conduct research in the field of metallurgy and science of materials. The appointee will also be expected to be actively involved with the community in the public sector by participating in the activities of the Department of Metallurgy and Science of Materials. Appointments will be made on a full-time basis. Salary will be in the range of £15,000 to £20,000 per annum. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Head of the Department of Metallurgy and Science of Materials, University of Oxford, Oxford, England. Closing date: 15 November 1983.

University of
Auckland
New Zealand Energy
Research and Development
Committee
FELLOWSHIP IN
ENERGY
ECONOMICS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for a Fellowship in Energy Economics in the Department of Energy Economics, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand. The appointee will be expected to teach and to conduct research in the field of energy economics. The appointee will also be expected to be actively involved with the community in the public sector by participating in the activities of the Department of Energy Economics. Appointments will be made on a full-time basis. Salary will be in the range of £15,000 to £20,000 per annum. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Head of the Department of Energy Economics, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand. Closing date: 15 November 1983.

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University of
Reading
PROFESSORSHIP
OF AGRICULTURAL
ECONOMICS AND
MANAGEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for a Professorship of Agricultural Economics and Management in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Management, University of Reading, Reading, England. The appointee will be expected to teach and to conduct research in the field of agricultural economics and management. The appointee will also be expected to be actively involved with the community in the public sector by participating in the activities of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Management. Appointments will be made on a full-time basis. Salary will be in the range of £15,000 to £20,000 per annum. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Management, University of Reading, Reading, England. Closing date: 15 November 1983.

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Polytechnics continued

POLYTECHNIC OF THE SOUTH BANK
Borough Road, London SE1 0AA
INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY
SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER,
Grade II

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for a Senior Lectureship or Lectureship in Environmental Engineering/Building Services Engineering in the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Polytechnic of the South Bank, Borough Road, London SE1 0AA. The appointee will be expected to teach and to conduct research in the field of environmental engineering/building services engineering. The appointee will also be expected to be actively involved with the community in the public sector by participating in the activities of the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology. Appointments will be made on a full-time basis. Salary will be in the range of £15,000 to £20,000 per annum. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Head of the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Polytechnic of the South Bank, Borough Road, London SE1 0AA. Closing date: 15 November 1983.

POLYTECHNIC OF THE SOUTH BANK
Borough Road, London SE1 0AA
ACADEMIC REGISTRAR'S DEPARTMENT
Senior
Administrative Officer
(COURSE APPROVALS AND VALIDATION)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for a Senior Administrative Officer in the Academic Registrar's Department, Polytechnic of the South Bank, Borough Road, London SE1 0AA. The appointee will be expected to manage the Academic Registrar's Department. The appointee will also be expected to be actively involved with the community in the public sector by participating in the activities of the Academic Registrar's Department. Appointments will be made on a full-time basis. Salary will be in the range of £15,000 to £20,000 per annum. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Head of the Academic Registrar's Department, Polytechnic of the South Bank, Borough Road, London SE1 0AA. Closing date: 15 November 1983.

SHEFFIELD CITY POLYTECHNIC
ANGLIAN REGIONAL
MANAGEMENT CENTRE
NORTH EAST LONDON POLYTECHNIC
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECT "EFFECT OF
FINANCIAL CONSTRAINT ON PUBLIC SECTOR
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS"

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for a research project in the Department of Education and Science, Sheffield City Polytechnic, North East London Polytechnic. The project is titled "Effect of Financial Constraint on Public Sector Higher Education Institutions". The appointee will be expected to conduct research in the field of higher education. The appointee will also be expected to be actively involved with the community in the public sector by participating in the activities of the Department of Education and Science. Appointments will be made on a full-time basis. Salary will be in the range of £15,000 to £20,000 per annum. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Head of the Department of Education and Science, Sheffield City Polytechnic, North East London Polytechnic. Closing date: 15 November 1983.

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NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE POLYTECHNIC
School of Materials EngineeringTemporary Lecturer II
in Production Engineering
(Re-advertisement) Ref. No. A29/83

Applications are invited to fill a temporary eighteen month appointment, to be taken up as soon as possible. Candidates should be well-qualified, preferably with a higher degree in the field of production engineering, and would be expected to be able to offer relevant research or industrial experience. The Polytechnic is expecting to introduce an enhanced degree in Engineering and production/manufacturing is a key area within the proposed course. The post will involve teaching of Production Engineering from Higher Technician Certificate to degree level and skills in Computer Aided Manufacture or Robotics would be especially relevant. Burnham FE: Lecturer II £7,215-£11,568 per annum. For further details and application forms please call our 24 hour telephone answering service (0632 33126) or write enclosing a stamped addressed envelope to Mrs Rosemary Smith, Administrative Assistant (Recruitment), Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic, Ellison Building, Ellison Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8ST, to whom completed forms should be returned quoting the reference number by 21 October 1983.

POLYTECHNIC OF THE SOUTH BANK
Borough Road, London SE1 0AA
ACADEMIC REGISTRAR'S DEPARTMENT
Senior
Administrative Officer
(COURSE APPROVALS AND VALIDATION)

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Middlesex Polytechnic
Employment Research Group
TEMPORARY
RESEARCH POST
£5,592-£6,284 pa inc

A one-year research post in the School of Geography and Planning, Middlesex Polytechnic, Hendon, London. The post is in the field of employment research. The appointee will be expected to conduct research in the field of employment. The appointee will also be expected to be actively involved with the community in the public sector by participating in the activities of the School of Geography and Planning. Appointments will be made on a full-time basis. Salary will be in the range of £5,592-£6,284 per annum. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Head of the School of Geography and Planning, Middlesex Polytechnic, Hendon, London. Closing date: 15 November 1983.

Newcastle upon Tyne
Polytechnic
School of Economics
LECTURER II
OR SENIOR
LECTURER IN
ECONOMICS
Ref No A34/83

The School wishes to recruit a Lecturer II or Senior Lecturer in Economics. The appointee will be expected to teach and to conduct research in the field of economics. The appointee will also be expected to be actively involved with the community in the public sector by participating in the activities of the School of Economics. Appointments will be made on a full-time basis. Salary will be in the range of £15,000 to £20,000 per annum. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Head of the School of Economics, Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic, Ellison Building, Ellison Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8ST. Closing date: 15 November 1983.

PAISLEY COLLEGE
LECTURER IN
CHEMICAL
ENGINEERING

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons for the post of Lecturer in Chemical Engineering in the Department of Chemistry. The appointee will be expected to teach and to conduct research in the field of chemical engineering. The appointee will also be expected to be actively involved with the community in the public sector by participating in the activities of the Department of Chemistry. Appointments will be made on a full-time basis. Salary will be in the range of £15,000 to £20,000 per annum. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Head of the Department of Chemistry, Paisley College, Paisley, Scotland. Closing date: 15 November 1983.

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PLYMOUTH
POLYTECHNIC
LEARNING
RESOURCES
CENTRE
Deputy
Librarian

Applications are invited for the post of Deputy Librarian in the Learning Resources Centre, Plymouth Polytechnic, Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA. The appointee will be expected to manage the Learning Resources Centre. The appointee will also be expected to be actively involved with the community in the public sector by participating in the activities of the Learning Resources Centre. Appointments will be made on a full-time basis. Salary will be in the range of £15,000 to £20,000 per annum. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Head of the Learning Resources Centre, Plymouth Polytechnic, Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA. Closing date: 15 November 1983.

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Colleges of Higher Education

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mid-Kent College of
Higher and Further Education
Department of Business StudiesPrincipal Lecturer
in Business Studies

Salary scale - £11,931-£13,718 (bar)-£15,018. Applications are invited for the above post to act as Director of Studies responsible for the management and development of a substantial element of the work of the Department of Business Studies in BEC National, Higher National and Professional courses. The post demands initiative, organisational skills and proven teaching ability in an appropriate business discipline. For further details and application form please apply to The Principal, Mid-Kent College of Higher and Further Education, Hoveden, Maidstone Road, Chatham, Kent ME5 8UQ. Telephone 0464 51001, Ext. 240. Closing date for completed applications 14th October, 1983.



JEAN MONNET FELLOWSHIPS
1984

REGISTRAR FOR DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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PRECEDING PUBLICATION

Don's diary

Monday

A monkey's wedding. A strangely satisfying marriage of brilliant sunshine and rain that is captured by this evocative phrase from my childhood. But the rain is soon over and the devastating drought continues.

Meeting with vice chancellor and university librarian about an innocuous book on South Africa, access to which (because the author, long deceased, was once "listed" as a subversive) the librarian has restricted - unreasonably in the view of an incredulous sociology lecturer who wants his students to read it. The vice chancellor is confused. I argue (erroneously) that the librarian has misunderstood the Internal Security Act and then (forlornly) that he ought to interpret the law liberally - in the interests of "academic freedom". The librarian almost bursts out of his safari suit. "Are you suggesting that I should break the law?" he gasps. He is rumoured to belong to the *Broderick* and appears to have a hot-line to Pretoria, yet I cannot help thinking that (like so many Afrikaans) he is a "good" man bristling with "good" intentions.

Lecture the constitutional law class I have inherited from a colleague who is abroad on sabbatical (which are, by comparison with Britain, extraordinarily generous). I pontificate on the evils of the first-past-the-post electoral system and the wonders of PR.

Tuesday

Not a cloud. On my way to the university the newspaper placards speak of proposed reductions of the daily water ration from 400 litres per household to 50 litres per person. But even this would be luxury for the thousands of Africans who have no running water at all (let alone, of course, electricity).

Animal Week. Students have organized five days of activities to publicize the horrors of vivisection. I need little persuasion: it is one issue that has distinctly unhealthy effects on my blood pressure. I agree to write a piece for a Sunday newspaper, but find myself wondering (in classic white guilt-ridden fashion) whether in this society - animals are not of limited importance. Decide that cruelty and exploitation must be condemned unequivocally.

Against my better judgment, I devote the whole (instead of the planned ten minutes) of my jurisprudence lecture to a repudiation of the grotesque argument, currently gaining support among liberal lawyers and being enthusiastically advanced by the press and Official Opposition, that the new constitution should incorporate a Bill of Rights. It is a singularly naive view. My thinly veiled case for majority rule occasionally sounds less like a lecture than an oration. Not a satisfactory end to the day.

Wednesday

The students' union nominate Nelson Mandela as the new chancellor of the university. Alan Paton says he will withdraw as a candidate rather than stand against Mandela. Some controversy over whether Mandela, known about or his accepted nomination. Thoroughly unimpressed by the student union's decision to nominate Mandela as the new chancellor of the university. The school system spawns wholly passive citizens which the universities do little to change. Student interrupts my feverish scribbles on "Does a dog have rights?" to tell me that he "really enjoyed" yesterday's jurisprudence lecture.

Thursday

Jacarandas beginning to appear. They and the sprays of bougainvillea are, even to my colourblind eyes, breath-takingly bright. Still not the slightest prospect of rain.

Attend "University Forum" (a weekly guest lecture) delivered by a sociologist from Wits with whom I served on the students' union of Wits, but whom I haven't seen since I left South Africa 13 years ago to settle (I thought forever) in Oxford. He reports on some empirical work he has done in respect of young Soweto blacks and whom they look to for leadership. The answer, in general, seems to be the ANC. Though there are a number of questionable features about his methodology (even to a mere lawyer), his efforts style impresses me. Invite him for dinner on Sunday.

Friday

Seven am. Awakened by monkey sprinting boisterously across the roof. This troop of vervets are regular visitors from the nature reserve which abuts our house.

Lectures begin (as does life) at an unconscionably early hour. First class is at 7.45am. Nine o'clock lectures in England were an especially painful ordeal that I sought annually (with limited success) to avoid; yet here I have adapted remarkably swiftly to uncovering the mysteries of the *Grundnorm* at this ungodly hour.

Invigilate a constitutional mid-year examination. Watching 90 heads bent in apparent concentration over scrawled scripts, I reflect on how I would fare in the exam. I have, since taking over the course, engaged in a rapid relearning of much that I had forgotten.

After a rather heavy-going (and barely edible) lunch with colleagues, attend a meeting of the law faculty board which is over mercifully soon. On the way out, one of the members, a senior and likeable judge, tests some of the quips he plans to use in tonight's Moot Final. We chuckle dully. (My relations with the judiciary have become a little strained since my inaugural lecture in which I argued that moral judges should resign.)

The Moot Final is something of a gala occasion which attracts several hundred people (not confined to the local legal fraternity). Even the vice chancellor attends. Three "real" judges sit on the "bench" as final-year students argue hypothetical cases before them. The legal points are, in large measure, lost on the vast majority of the audience who wait eagerly for judicial interjections which are calculated both to amuse the public and to embarrass the contestants.

Saturday

Take dog for walk (I walk, she runs) on wide stretch of deserted beach with the city shimmering in the distance. Return home to a depressing pile of unmarked constitutional law scripts.

Roof-wetting party in the evening. An architect friend has completed building his own house. No dancing (sadly) so spent the evening monopolizing a Cabernet Sauvignon.

Sunday

The newspaper devotes two full pages to the subject of vivisection. A colleague (who has been to a meeting of the Society for the Abolition of Vivisection) says that he is always surprised to receive recognition, however meagre, from scientists. Armed with a picnic we accompany friends to an "International" polo match between South Africa and the "British Isles". First time I have watched the sport and it turns out to be unexpectedly exciting (in spite of the unusual amount of the action one can actually see). Delighted when Britain wins 7-5.

Special home to receive Wits sociologist friend (and his lawyerly girlfriend) for dinner. He is anxious to discuss strategies the English language universities might adopt in respect of the recently enacted "Quota Act" which imposes racial quotas on their intake.

Raymond Wacks

The author is professor of public law and head of the department of law at the University of Natal in Durban.

There are ominous signs that commitment to research in the United States is flagging. Between 1965 and 1977, total national expenditure on research and development as a proportion of the Gross National Product declined by 24 per cent, rising only about 1 per cent between 1978 and 1980.

Equally ominous, perhaps, is the fact that the funding for university research is tilting away from government and toward private corporations. Until now, university research supported by business and industry has been modest. In 1978, for example, industry gave only an estimated \$45m to universities for research. This figure was less than 3 per cent of higher education's total research expenditure that year, and it represented an actual decrease from 1960, when corporate support stood at 5.5 per cent. By 1982, industry was spending more than \$200m annually in support of university-based research. This is only 4 per cent of the federal expenditure - but it is a rapidly growing percentage.

Universities in the United States now are increasingly turning to the private sector as federal research support declines. And business is responding. In 1974, Monsanto began a 12 year \$23m project with the Harvard Medical School for research on the molecular basis of organ development. In 1981, Dupont announced \$6m to the Harvard Medical School for genetic research; Hoechst, the West German chemical giant, gave \$50m to the Harvard-affiliated Massachusetts General Hospital for medical research; ten companies contributed \$7.5m for a new computer centre at Stanford; Control Data, Burroughs and Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing pledged up to \$5m for computer research at the University of Minnesota; and Exxon announced \$1m project on combustion research at MIT. Monsanto announced in June 1982 a \$23.5m collaboration in biomedical research.

Donald Kennedy, president of Stanford University, described these and other developments as signalling "a new era in university-industry relations." For universities, the new relationship meant access to much-needed sources of funding. For industry, it meant access to university laboratory discoveries that could lead to important new products.

Still, there are those who worry about these new alliances. The corporate world, by its very nature, seeks higher profits. Hence, "basic" research, in which universities excel, will be most attractive to corporations if its potential uses seem to be profitable at the outset. In the past, issues of research have been confined largely to classified defence-related research. Most universities have dealt with the problem by rejecting such contracts except in wartime. The secrecy issue in any industry-university alliance is equally troublesome. Protecting commercial or industrial discoveries may be necessary in a competitive market-place, thus undermining the open exchange of academic findings so fundamental to research. Clearly, any commercial restriction on research would also violate the principle of academic freedom but could inhibit the university's emphasis on free and open inquiry.

Traditionally, academic researchers in the US have relied on a built-in system of peer criticism and evaluation.

Castration of local democracy

spread power, and always yielding just enough to localities, and to classes, they avoided the horrors of revolution which gripped Europe or so many occasions from the middle of the eighteenth century.

But now I learn from both the Prime Minister and from Patrick Jenkin, Environment Secretary, that we are not a "nation" but a "unitary state". This is the phrase which is used to justify the dismemberment of local government and the castration of local democracy, and which is having the more dire and immediate consequences, not least for the readers of *The Times*. The overriding principle, claimed Patrick Jenkin in a speech last week to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, was the "precedence of the national mandate over the local one". He went on to claim that the allegedly high-spirited Labour authorities had, by so doing, damaged industry and lost jobs.

In a crude sense, Jenkin is of course right about the national mandate. Unconstrained by any formal, written constitution, Parliament can do anything it likes; or to be more precise the majority party can. When the boot was on the other foot and the Tories were in opposition, this was a prospect that worried that real Tory, Lord Hailsham, that he described it as "elective dictatorship". And indeed, it is precisely because the majority party can do anything, because it has the potential to be a "dictatorship", that it bears the greater responsibility for preserving the balance of power between our institutions and the plurality that is essential to the working of our democracy.

The crude theory about the supremacy of the government party could just as easily be used to justify interference with the judiciary. But, much as Margaret Thatcher might wish to replace trial by jury with greater certainty of a Star Chamber procedure, even she recognizes her responsibility to ensure that the courts are kept separate from the executive.

The Conservatives do, in my view, have a similar responsibility in respect of local democracy. This is not some abstract ideal, but an effective system of

Sapping the strength of universities



Ernest Boyer

about these new alliances. The corporate world, by its very nature, seeks higher profits. Hence, "basic" research, in which universities excel, will be most attractive to corporations if its potential uses seem to be profitable at the outset. In the past, issues of research have been confined largely to classified defence-related research. Most universities have dealt with the problem by rejecting such contracts except in wartime. The secrecy issue in any industry-university alliance is equally troublesome. Protecting commercial or industrial discoveries may be necessary in a competitive market-place, thus undermining the open exchange of academic findings so fundamental to research. Clearly, any commercial restriction on research would also violate the principle of academic freedom but could inhibit the university's emphasis on free and open inquiry.

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Still, there are those who worry about these new alliances. The corporate world, by its very nature, seeks higher profits. Hence, "basic" research, in which universities excel, will be most attractive to corporations if its potential uses seem to be profitable at the outset. In the past, issues of research have been confined largely to classified defence-related research. Most universities have dealt with the problem by rejecting such contracts except in wartime. The secrecy issue in any industry-university alliance is equally troublesome. Protecting commercial or industrial discoveries may be necessary in a competitive market-place, thus undermining the open exchange of academic findings so fundamental to research. Clearly, any commercial restriction on research would also violate the principle of academic freedom but could inhibit the university's emphasis on free and open inquiry.

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Jack Straw

Do I have any readers left who are not convinced that they should spare a thought for the way in which concepts which are anathema to Tory philosophy are being used by Conservative ministers to justify their short-term policies. So too should my other readers for they are affected by the consequences of these policies.

Time was when the Tories spoke only of "nation", and never of "state". The idea of a nation not only fit in well with Tory philosophy but could almost have been invented by them.

The Tories are seen as a foreign concept, the refuge of those who consider that the machinery of the country is an ideal that lies in the other Tory belief of individual liberty, and of less than the Tories. The Tories are seen as a foreign concept, the refuge of those who consider that the machinery of the country is an ideal that lies in the other Tory belief of individual liberty, and of less than the Tories.

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tion. Networks of academics resist the investigative process, so that new work is shared informally at professional meetings. The good continuous quality control; but the system does not work if information is withheld from discussion and publication.

A still greater danger is that research initiatives could shift from the individual scholar to the corporate manager - and that the professional value of the scientist might be linked to his or her ability to please the patron rather than to his or her ability to ask questions.

The involvement of commercial organizations in university-industry research is potentially compromising, in many respects it is to increase.

Universities don't just produce knowledge - which many other places do - but, on the campus, research becomes synonymous with a quest for truth. There is a precious quality to this university character, at a time when knowledge itself is increasingly politicized to support preconceived positions and special interests. Therefore, it would appear that the most subtle links between academic research and American industry would involve research that can be pursued under the full control of the investigator whose success is judged by academic peers.

Those who seriously entertain the idea of allowing higher education's research function to diminish or to other sectors need to be reminded that the campus is where future scholars are prepared. Scholarly inquiry, Professor Hayne Booth of the University of Chicago has argued, is a tradition and has a continuity that cannot be interrupted without serious, perhaps irreparable damage. It is conceivable that, a link in the chain will be missing.

Without adequate support, we face a grim prospect of losing a generation of scholars that can never be replaced.

Thus, much is at stake when higher learning's dominant position in research is threatened. Scholars in increasing numbers may be enticed to leave their university positions in favour of more continuous flow of funds in industry. If accelerated, this trend would not only undermine the university's strength in research but would draw the most valuable talent away from campuses, threatening a vicious circle.

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Innocence abroad

Sir, Linda Nash (*THE TIMES*, September 16) might have cited a fourth type of author, viz Dr Innocent. He is a young lecturer, in his first job, and with a recently-completed PhD. He is approached by an academic publisher and invited to submit a revised version of his thesis as one of a monograph series.

Dr Innocent knows little about publishing, but is keen and anxious to please. As a condition of acceptance for the series, he has to submit three chapters. If these prove satisfactory, then his book will be published. He duly rewrites these chapters and sends them to one of the editors of the series. Two of the three chapters are returned with comments after a couple of months. He then has to wait a further six months before being told that his book has been accepted. The third chapter is returned a couple of months after that. However, nothing daunted, Dr Innocent sits down and finishes the entire book. His editor then takes 15 months to read and return this and the author only extracts the final chapter after a furious letter. At this point, with less than three months before the manuscript is due at the press, he is (a) told that he must cut the final chapter to half its length (b) only then sent the publisher's house rules for the preparation of the manuscript. Not surprisingly, Dr Innocent is at this stage less than enamoured of replying to the book himself, or of paying for it to be reprinted. He is also wondering whether the whole business is worth it!

More over, the increase in tuition fees has been greater proportionately than the increase in rates. And in contrast with what the Government has done to industry, the loss of jobs has been trivial. The loss of jobs has been caused by high interest rates, a continually overvalued currency, and by cuts in public expenditure which have, not least, damaged order books and jobs of private industry. If local authorities had some abolished rates, most firms would have not been able to ward off these Government-inflicted attacks.

That other proper Tory, Ted Heath, once outlasted a Labour Government for "dictating to local authorities how they should run local affairs". He would, he said, that "people are disillusioned with the way our democracy works". Despite its author, Mr Heath would do well to ignore it.

Yours faithfully, GRAHAM LOUD, School of history, University of Leeds.

Letters for publication should arrive by Thursday morning. They should be as short as possible and written on one side of the paper. The editor reserves the right to cut or amend them if necessary.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NAB planning creates a difficult programme

Sir, - a most alarming aspect of the National Advisory Body methodology for determining financial allocations for 1984/85 is the use made of new weighting factors for programme areas. These values have been arrived at in the most extraordinary fashion, and their uncritical application to the calculation of total funds for an institution creates serious anomalies, particularly for colleges with a heavy commitment to engineering.

According to the interim report of the technical and data group (TDG 29/83) the weightings were arrived at on the recommendation of Her Majesty's Inspectors for particular subject areas and then averaged over programme areas. From the data supplied it is clear that the HMI's have not been working to common premises (see table).

It is not explained how the four subjective variables are converted into actual subject weightings, but clearly it is better to score a high number than a lower one. The disparities in the estimations for support staff and books/equipment in particular are absurd to a self-evident degree, yet these are the subject weightings averaged out to provide the programme weightings on which the calculation depends. The astonishingly high figures given to computing cannot be attributed to costs of the mainframe computer, otherwise colleges without specialist computing courses would be

denied such a facility.

The programme weightings give the remarkable relativities: engineering - 1.6; music - 1.7; science - 1.7; mathematics and computing - 1.9.

The extraordinary low figure in engineering is attributable to the gross underestimation accepted for electrical and mechanical engineering in the above table. The consequence is that at a time of major national encouragement for engineering with emphasis on engineering applications, project work and some extended courses, resources for engineering are actually transferred to other subject areas.

This can be demonstrated, using the NAB's own figures. In the former system, where subjects like engineering were included in Group 1 and the resources ratio of 1.4:1 applied to Group 1: Group 1: the actual weighting of engineering relative to the average was 1.857. In the proposed system,

For example, apart from two universities in Japan, the SOAS is the only institution in the world outside Burma to provide regular research and teaching in the Burmese language, a language spoken by 30 million people in a country five times the size of England. Between 1980 and 1989 cuts will have resulted in a reduction from three posts to half a post in this language. The cuts in this case occur at a time when Burma is looking out to England, and is introducing English as the medium of instruction in its secondary and tertiary educational system. Another language, under threat of disappearing totally from the SOAS list is Sinhalese, the national language of Sri Lanka.

The SOAS has had its income cut by one third, resulting in staff being cut by 25 per cent and library book allocations by 40 per cent. As cuts are made mostly in departments where student demand is least, it is the various Oriental and African languages that are under serious threat of disappearing.

At a time when the qualities of

the weighting of 1.6 gives a weighting relative to the average of 1.141, a reduction of the unit of resource by 37.6 per cent.

The figure is demonstrated otherwise that, whereas the previous allocation would give engineering 20.97 per cent of the total allocation, the new method would offer 20.18 per cent which, in terms of the whole pool, amounts to a transfer of over £4m from engineering to other subject areas for exactly the same number of students.

The weighting given to engineering is based on an absurdity and its effect is contrary to national policy. A weighting at least comparable to the much less expensive area of mathematics and computing needs to be substituted.

Yours faithfully, JOHN DUBBEY, Dean of the faculty of engineering, Polytechnic of the South Bank.

Staff	Student	Support	Books/equipment	Premises	Subject cost
ratio	ratio	ratio	ratio	ratio	ratio
Chemical engineering	11	4.0	12.0	2.0	1.7
Electrical engineering	12	4.0	4.5	4.0	1.6
Mechanical engineering	12	4.0	4.5	4.0	1.6
Food technology	11	6.0	15.0	5.5	2.1
Applied biology	10	6.0	15.0	5.5	2.2
Physics	12	3.0	3.5	1.5	1.3
Mathematics	10	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Computing	10	10.0	10.0	3.5	2.1
Psychology	12	2.5	6.0	4.4	1.8
Catering	10	6.0	6.0	3.3	1.7
Home economics	12	6.0	15.0	5.5	2.2
Pharmacy	10	6.0	15.0	5.5	2.2

international understanding and cooperation are praised as the only solution to future world peace and stability and England is waking up to the fact that it is a multicultural society, it is highly regrettable that cuts should strike so disproportionately, and apparently without a further thought, at such "scarce" subjects in unique places of research.

Ultimately this is bound to impair our understanding of other cultures. A review is certainly required and there is no better time to do this than now, before there is nothing left to review.

Yours sincerely, GUSTAF HOUTMAN, PhD Student in anthropology, School of Oriental and African Studies.

Such a satellite scheme is the availability of higher education for the adult student anywhere in the country. This would be particularly helpful in an area such as the south-west, say, where important centres of population can be a hundred miles from a university.

Local institutions would benefit educationally from the connexion and any could join the network, provided the university were satisfied with regard to teachers and courses.

It might be claimed that for a scheme like this to come to fruition a great change of heart within the universities themselves would be required. But although such a view would have been valid 10 years ago, where the suggestion could have been met with the damning cry of "dilution of standards", my own feeling is that times have changed. And in any case, the spectre of dilution can be banished with the right sort of safeguards.

Most extramural departments could, no doubt, be persuaded to bring their adult education expertise to bear, given sufficient encouragement, and there is no doubt about the welcome and cooperation which the local colleges would give to any overtures in this direction.

At the moment a number of university extramural departments manage to offer degree courses on a limited scale, but they do so by juggling with staff and a practice of "divestment" which must have their internal auditors beating their heads against the wall.

The evening degree concept, so dear to the hearts of an earlier generation of "self-helpers", will never have universal application along these lines.

What is required is some direct encouragement from either the University Grants Committee or the Department of Education and Science. My own optimistic guess, in view of enormous pressures for higher education which is now building up, is that some such cost-effective scheme as this will almost certainly be considered within the foreseeable future.

Yours sincerely, RAOULE FRANKLIN, Vice-Chancellor, University of Exeter.

Part-time degrees and local links

Sir, - Of all the interesting ideas which recently have been put forward with regard to continuing education and part-time degrees, perhaps there is one which has been overlooked, or at least, requires to be drawn a little more into the light. This concerns the university's role as the central body within a network of regional institutions, all offering external awards whose validation and supervision rests with the local university.

In many universities a pattern of external relationships with respect to degree programmes has already been set, so that all we need look for is an extension of the system to fit the requirements of the adult part-timer. For example, colleges of education are linked to their local university through the BED degree, in which the faculty of education provides the administrative link and some institutes of higher education seek connections with the regional university rather than the Council for National Academic Awards for arts and other degrees.

Whatever the arrangements, the following factors seem always to be present in continuing education programmes on which continuing education might build: explicit or implicit approval of teachers taking courses in the satellite institutions; boards of studies determining syllabuses and examination matters; "second marking" of papers by university staff; external moderation; final approval by the senate of awards either through an appropriate faculty, or a board of studies reporting directly to the senate.

The ways in which these relationships with outside bodies have come into being have the appearance of being almost accidental: a local institution seeking university help in launching a degree course; or perhaps a department of the university seeking a connexion for a combined degree, say with a local college of art. Yet the development has some interesting parallels with London University's nineteenth century external degree enterprise in conferring "approved" status on individuals, and "approved" teaching institutions' status on certain colleges and polytechnics.

The greatest benefit to be derived from such a satellite scheme is the availability of higher education for the adult student anywhere in the country. This would be particularly helpful in an area such as the south-west, say, where important centres of population can be a hundred miles from a university.

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Yours sincerely, TOM DAVENY, Director of Extramural Studies, University of Exeter.

Union View

When it is a question of answers

These days there's a see-saw effect between information demands and resources; the one continually going up, the other coming down. It was therefore with some trepidation that I recently wrote to academic registrars asking for yet more information, this time about their admission policies.

Our education committee, faced with the job of implementing a council resolution calling for wider access to university education, and for "consultation to ensure that individual universities are actively discussing ways by which university education could be made more widely available to the community", had decided we needed first of all to gather all available up-to-date information about entrance procedures for special groups; access courses; individual initiatives.

I asked registrars to break down "wider access" into groups such as minority ethnic; disability; mature entrants; women; retired people; as well as the community at large. I also asked them to distinguish between special admission policies into degree courses and all other pre-entry, part-time and special courses.

Aware of the rather miscellaneous nature of the exercise, I've been heartened by the nature and quantity of the returns, which convey both sympathy with the motive behind the inquiry, and a sense of the pressures staff are working under.

Most mentioned flexibility and encouragement for mature students (23 plus), given demonstrable capability, and several referred to special pre-entry courses designed to lead on to degree courses. I was surprised at the high proportion of mature student intake in some institutions.

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Little active consideration appears to be given to getting more minority ethnic students into the system, some commenting that neither negative nor positive discrimination is practised. More awareness of the claims of handicapped students to special consideration was evident, quite a few institutions going out of their way to help such applicants, though physical access was a problem which kept cropping up.

Rapid change is occurring in provision made for part-timers. Significant numbers of universities have started to offer more degree courses on a part-time basis, or offering further flexibility where part-time courses have been long established.

But without a doubt the greatest awareness of the existence of an access "problem" comes in respect of science and technology for women. There now appears to be a burgeoning of special science and engineering conferences, courses and school visits aimed particularly at weaning girls away from arts.

Most interesting of all were the comments on links with the community and here I must confess to disappointment. While many reflected very active schools liaison work, few gave a sense that more could be required or expected in relation to the surrounding citizenry beyond the fare of annual open days, public and inaugural lectures and, of course, the extramural department prospectus. These that did, came across as lively places making strenuous efforts to market their wares.

Many returns pointed to the acute dilemma of admissions officers, inundated with applications from future good A level holders, yet wanting to encourage access from underrepresented groups. While the Government induces pressure on these places remains, the prevalent attitude will continue to hold to "individual academic merit" as the highest (only?) criterion. What else can you do if one person's special opportunity is another's disappointment - though holding higher exam grades? Tea and sympathy is no substitute for the extra places to offer and room for experiment.

Tina Day

The author is assistant general secretary of the Association of University Teachers.